



Chancellor's supporters envisage an outright win on the second ballot

Major, Hurd pledge reform of the poll tax

By PHILIP WEBSTER AND ROBIN OAKLEY

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THE future of the poll tax was yesterday thrown into the centre of the Conservative leadership contest as Douglas Hurd and John Major put pledges to reform it at the heart of their appeal to Conservative MPs.

Michael Heseltine has already promised to look closely at the community charge, so the declarations of all three candidates mean a speedy review is certain whoever is elected prime minister.

Mr Major's campaign got off to a healthy start yesterday, with pledges of support from many MPs who had voted for Margaret Thatcher in the first round. Some of the Chancellor's more enthusiastic campaigners were even talking of a win outright on Tuesday. He said he had received pledges from a third of the parliamentary party, and bookmakers made him favourite to win the contest.

All three contenders were emphasising their credentials for uniting the party. As the shock waves of Mrs Thatcher's resignation continued to reverberate through Westminster and the wider party, Mr Major was said to be making the best headway among her first-round backers. Mr Hurd's camp reported

"close to 100" committed supporters. Campaigners said that a full and rigorous canvass of Tory MPs had revealed that more than 100 remained "floating voters" who were placing great store on consultations in their constituencies. Mr Heseltine's team claimed that 40 MPs who had supported Mrs Thatcher had gone over to him but it appeared that he was losing some of his first ballot support.

The Major campaign was boosted last night when it won the backing of John MacGregor, leader of the Commons. Mr Major and Mr Hurd each have the support of five cabinet colleagues. Chris Patten, Tom King, Malcolm Rifkind, William Waldegrave and Kenneth Clarke are lined up behind Mr Hurd. Mr Major is backed by Norman Lamont, Peter Lilley, John

Gummer, Michael Howard and Mr MacGregor.

David Waddington, the home secretary who is one of the few still uncommitted members of the cabinet, said either Mr Hurd or Mr Major could unite the party. He did not mention Mr Heseltine. Lord Howe of the Lizard, the former prime minister, supported the foreign secretary.

Launching their campaigns yesterday, both Mr Major and Mr Hurd indicated that they hoped they could change the community charge before the next general election. Mr Heseltine moved swiftly to harden his own pledge, saying that any review must be fundamental to ensure that the Tories were re-elected. He said the review must be concluded before the manifesto was drafted.

In an interview with *The Times* yesterday, Mr Major said it was clear there was "irresistible momentum" for further changes to the community charge. The Chancellor said that he would not seek to produce instant solutions. "We should not be bounced by the imminence of a leadership election". But he declared: "I would hope we can do something before the election". He was becoming increasingly convinced that "we will not be able to leave things as they are".

Mr Hurd said the poll tax would be an urgent priority for the new cabinet. The foreign secretary is assisted on the issue by having Mr Patten, who would be in charge of any new review, in his team. The two had long consultations on Thursday on how the charge could be reformed rapidly. Although Mr Hurd said in a BBC television interview that banding the charge had been "pretty well discarded" and thought unworkable, it is understood that he and Mr Patten have been discussing the possibility of more central finance and relating the tax to the ability to pay.

Mr Heseltine said he was delighted that his two opponents were moving towards changes in the charge. "I hear John and Douglas saying that now. That is what I said when I decided to stand. It will be of central importance to our party to get that review over and done with and commitments made".

The return of the poll tax to centre stage has not displaced the Labour party. Neil Kinnock last night said: "When it comes to poll tax, the choice is between Heseltine who knows there is a problem and does not really know what to do about it, Major who knows there is a problem and does not really want to do anything about it and Hurd, who has only just found out there is a problem."

Tory MPs were wondering whether Mr Major would take his cue from Nigel Lawson, the former Chancellor who disclosed on BBC's *Question Time* that there was a plan in the Treasury for a revised version of the rating system.

In their separate press conferences, both Mr Hurd and Mr Major yesterday came out against the idea of a referendum on the single European currency, an idea floated by Mrs Thatcher. Both said that such decisions should be taken by Parliament.

Mr Hurd emphasised the value of his foreign affairs experience as the Gulf Conference on page 26, col 3



My party needs me: John Major putting his case at 11 Downing Street yesterday

West races to win UN support by next week

By MICHAEL KNIFE, DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

WITH America and Britain in a race against time to win international support for the use of force against Iraq, Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, yesterday predicted that the United Nations Security Council would address the issue formally next week.

A strong indication that progress has been made in private diplomatic contacts came when it emerged that foreign ministers were preparing to fly to the UN to participate personally in a

at the end of the month, from the United States to Yemen, the council's only Arab member and the one which is least inclined to pressure Iraq.

Yemen's presidency will rob the leaders of the multinational forces in the Gulf of their tactical diplomatic advantage. The Sanaa government has abstained from voting on five of the ten security council resolutions against Iraq since August 2.

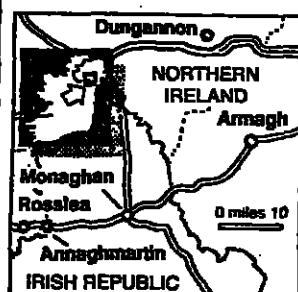
James Baker, the US Secretary of State, flew to Sanaa on Tuesday in an attempt to win the support of General Ali Abdullah Saleh, the Yemeni president, for a use of force resolution but his efforts were rebuffed. President Saleh criticised the military build-up in the region and called for an Arab solution to the conflict.

Mr Hurd's suggestion that the council was set to consider a draft resolution on the use of force as soon as next week, the first such signal, was made during a press conference on the Conservative party leadership contest. He said such a draft would be the latest of the peaceful pressures to persuade President Saddam Hussein of Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait. "I don't know whether those peaceful pressures will work," he said, "and that is why I fear the crisis is entering a crucial, critical phase."

The West's predictions of an early resolution calling for the use of force still appear to be at odds with the views of the Soviet Union and China, the other two permanent members of the council. Eduard Shevardnadze, the Soviet foreign minister, said

in Paris earlier in the week that it was time to return to the security council to "take stock", but when he met Qian Qichen, his Chinese counterpart, in the western Chinese city of Urumqi near the border with the Soviet Union yesterday, Western diplomats noted that neither of them mentioned the possibility of a UN Security Council resolution on the use of force.

Carlew lifted, page 9



Carlew lifted, page 9

Saturday Review

Eight nights at the Opera



Luciano Pavarotti costs £10,000 a performance, one of the more glamorous statistics associated with running the Royal Opera House. John Higgins examines the balance sheet covering eight nights

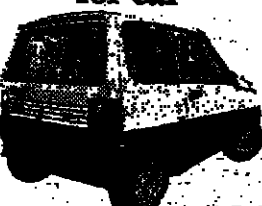
Dressing the child in labels

Some parents who buy "fashion" clothes for their children are saying a lot about themselves but doing the child no favours

Written into the plot

Jonathan Raban explains to Alan Franks how he accidentally invaded the plot of his latest travel book

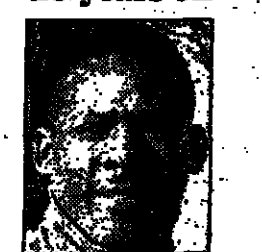
The French for car



These little cars have made an impact on traffic problems in Paris. Why are they not available in Britain?

SPORT

Hanley leads, 20 years on



Elly Hanley captains Great Britain in the rugby league international today, hoping for the first series victory against Australia in 20 years

MONEY

Some boots are made for selling

Car boot sales and cheap-to-rent market stalls are becoming big business as people find new ways to raise cash

THE TIMES

Funny how comics change

The zap! pow! days are mostly gone as comics turn to serious issues. Our colour magazine for young readers finds out why. Plus the chance to win a John Barnes video

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Tory supporters claim treachery

By SHEILA GUNN, POLITICAL REPORTER

A WAVE of bile is being directed at MPs and party officials from Conservative supporters for their alleged treachery and betrayal of Margaret Thatcher. The outraged callers and letter writers, predominantly female, say they will no longer vote Tory. They accuse MPs of cowardice for their role in forcing out the prime minister, while some blame Michael Heseltine personally for her demise.

The switchboard at Conservative Central Office has been jammed by protest calls during the past three days, while MPs report a similar wave of anger from local activists. Central office said many callers talked of "disgust" and "shock" at the treatment of Mrs Thatcher.

The enquiry desk reported a constant stream of callers since Tuesday night protesting at what they saw as the betrayal of Mrs Thatcher. One telephoneist said: "Some are extremely upset and most were very disgusted. About two-thirds of them were women, many tearful. I think they were

rather shocked." A press office spokesman said: "There have been people returning their membership cards torn up and saying they are never going to vote Conservative again after what has happened. But it is inevitable going to happen at a time like this. Possibly it is in the heat of the moment."

But early poll findings indicate a dramatic improvement in the party's popularity after her resignation announcement. The conflicting evidence from the callers and the polls underline the strong emotions aroused by Mrs Thatcher among traditional Conservatives. It suggests that many people voted Conservative solely because of her leadership while others, alienated by her personality and style, may be returning to the Tory fold.

Meanwhile, two members of the Tory Conservative Association handcrafted themselves to the railings outside Mr Heseltine's London home in protest at his part in Mrs Thatcher's downfall.

Shares surge on hope of cut in interest rates

By GEORGE SIVELL

SHARES surged in London yesterday thanks to a strong pound, hopes that the incoming prime minister will soon be in a position to cut interest rates, and favourable opinion poll showings for the Conservatives under a new leadership.

By the close, the FT-SE 100 index had climbed to 2,170.5, a rise of 42.6 points on the day and 72.5 points on the week.

The market's golden scenario, where interest rates are cut ahead of a Conservative general election victory in June or July next year, is back on the agenda.

Analysis said a Heseltine win in the leadership race should give the biggest boost to the stock market, as he offered the best chance of preventing Labour from forming the next government.

Death silences Pied Piper of the macabre

By PHILIP HOWARD

ONE of the most widely read and influential writers of our generation died yesterday afternoon in Oxford. Roald Dahl was the most popular writer of children's books since Enid Blyton. He would have hated the comparison, always taking a high and mighty view of his work. Teachers disliked his boldness and underdog anarchy. Parents were frightened by the cruelty and nastiness. But children bought it in millions. *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* and the others are the equivalent of *The Wind in the Willows* and *William* for the tougher postwar generations.

He was a colourful and chippy man and a writer of horror short stories, televised with success under the apt title *Tales of the Unexpected*. His talents lay not in characterisation or psychological insight, but in macabre ingenuity and a

kind of deft fantasy that rang the bell with the young. His stories combine the outright with clockwork precision of plot: for example, the murder committed with a frozen leg of lamb, which is then eaten to remove the weapon.

He had quite a lot to be cross about in life. His parents were Norwegian, but he was born in Cardiff. His father and sister died within a few weeks when he was a boy. He was sent to a barbaric public school, where he was beaten a lot, and escaped into the war as a fighting pilot, and then a spook, which explains the devilishness. One of his children died of measles and another was permanently damaged in a road accident as a baby. His first wife, the actress Patricia Neal, suffered a catastrophic stroke. His life was punctuated by plane crashes, illnesses, surgery and bereavement.

He got into writing by accident in the

United States. And he had the magic. He once said, with characteristic modesty: "I do have power. Writing is all propaganda, in a sense. You can get at greediness and selfishness by making them look ridiculous. The greatest attribute of a human being is kindness, and all the other qualities like bravery and perseverance are secondary to that."

He was gruff, difficult, absurdly right-wing and opinionated. He enjoyed annoying the respectable, one of the reasons children loved his work. But the best was terrific. He wrote far too much and not all of it was much good. In the last 12 months his 18 children's titles in paperback sold more than 2 million copies in the UK alone. He was our modern Pied Piper. Children as well as publishers will mourn his silence.



Roald Dahl: cruel tales bewitched child readers

Obituary, page 14

IRA's biggest bomb fails

By EDWARD GORMAN, IRISH AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

THE IRA attempted to use another "human bomb" to devastate an Army post in Northern Ireland yesterday but the 3,500 lb device, the biggest they have assembled, failed to explode.

It is less than a month since six soldiers and a civilian were killed in human bomb attacks in the province, but this time the device, which was driven by a civilian into a border checkpoint at Annaghmartin in Fermanagh, did not detonate properly. This malfunction undoubtedly saved the lives of many of the soldiers in the post, the driver and people near by.

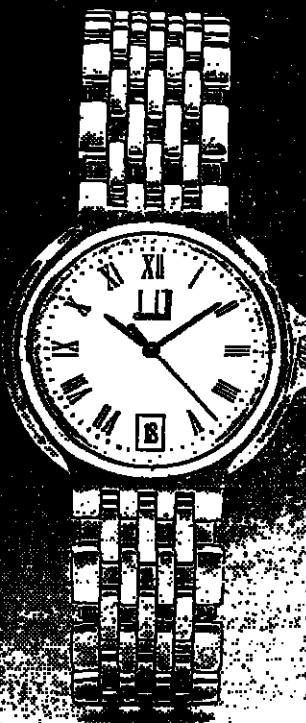
Security sources said the destructive power of the device was roughly equivalent to the 1,000 lb bombs dropped on London during the blitz.

Peter Brooke, the Northern Ireland secretary said the attack was another clear demonstration of the inhumanity of the IRA. "Very fortunately this huge device... did not explode," he said. "Had it done so, the terrorists would have murdered the driver, whose elderly parents were held hostage, soldiers and anyone else who happened to be in the area."

The IRA later issued a statement saying it took over the house of Kenneth and Hazel North at Drumilly about ten miles from the checkpoint. It said the family had work links with the security forces.

Police said that Peter North, the couple's son, was abducted from the house on Thursday night after his parents had been tied up and locked in a lavatory. He was taken across the border before being driven in a vehicle near to the checkpoint. Shortly before midnight, he was told the bomb in the back had a five-minute timer and he was to deliver it.

The police say there was a small explosion about 60 seconds after the device arrived at the army position, and that only the primer consisting of a tiny amount of commercial explosive, had detonated. Mr North had shouted a warning before running for cover.



INDIVIDUALITY. A CLASSIC TIMEPIECE THAT REPRESENTS THE PINNACLE OF THE WATCHMAKERS' ART. THE STEEL AND YELLOW METAL ELITE. PART OF A COMPLETE RANGE OF WATCHES FROM ALFRED DUNHILL.

dunhill

VISIT ALFRED DUNHILL IN LONDON AT DUKE STREET, ST JAMES'S, THE BURLINGTON ARCADE, 5 SLOANE STREET AND AT ALFRED DUNHILL IN HARRODS AND SELFRIEGES WATCHES ALSO AVAILABLE AT WATCHES OF SWITZERLAND LTD, THE GOLDSMITHS GROUP, HARRODS WATCH DEPARTMENT AND LEADING JEWELLERS.

Treasury hare leaves Foreign Office tortoise lagging behind

By ROBIN OAKLEY
POLITICAL EDITOR

THE British stand for parliament, the Americans run for office. There is a distinctly brisk, American flavour about the John Major campaign. Douglas Hurd paces it the Foreign Office way, waiting for chaos to bring in the tea.

Within hours of Mr Major's candidature being announced, his team of ministerial backers were hiring the telephones, numbers had been circulated to journalists and media bids were being canvassed. No holding back there to let it be Mrs Thatcher's day. She surely would have approved such

single-mindedness. The Major team were talking figures by 9 am on the second day, claiming already to have the support of more than a third of Tory MPs.

When he staged his opening press conference at the Treasury, Mr Major was surrounded by ambitious, capable young politicians including Norman Lamont and David Mellor. Although Norman Tebbit has pledged his support and promised to deliver the right-wing vote, he was not in evidence. The emphasis is on the team for the 1990s.

The message was skilfully calculated: Mr Major has not forgotten the C2s who delivered Mrs

Thatcher her election victories and who have lately been defecting in droves.

There was a clear signal that he will not treat every piece of legislation from the Thatcher years as a holy relic, and - at the second time of asking - a clear knockdown for the idea of referendums.

The Treasury civil servants had been schooled to cope. But when the press pack trooped next door to the Foreign Office for Mr Hurd's opening shots, it was a different story. Locking the media out in the cold for 25 minutes, signing with "more than my jobsworth" officials is scarcely a

way of winning friends. Somebody might have told them what was coming. For the first 24 hours, the Hurd team had been invisible and unheard while their man was being done down as the "Whitehall candidate" with no grasp of economics.

Mr Hurd himself was crisp and effective in his Thursday night television interviews. He sees off all the stuff about his old Etonian background with a reminder that he, too, knows about social mobility as a scholarship boy. He is authoritative on the big questions and has a gift for the odd colourful phrase. He begins to look like a man who really wants

the job. But he starts with the handicap of having signalled only at party conference time that he had other, almost equally appealing, things to do in life.

The Hurd press conference was a touch defensive. Fielding the foreign secretary and his PPS in shirt sleeves and braces helped to counter the image of Whitehall stuffiness. But Mr Hurd was patently less at ease on economic questions and very ready to dwell on his forte of foreign affairs. His responses on other questions were reactive and slid too readily into an attack on the Labour party, which is not fighting this election.

Where Mr Hurd scored was in his emphasis on listening, deciding and persuading. But his appeal has been so far to other politicians. That is wise in the sense that it is politicians who will vote in the new party leader. But the reason these politicians discarded Margaret Thatcher was their fear that she could not longer win them a general election. They are looking for someone who can reach out beyond Westminster. If they are going to be convinced of that, Mr Hurd's backers will need to install a few more telephones.

There was a lull in Michael Heseltine's public campaign yesterday as the team regrouped to prepare an advance on wavering

voters (Lin Jenkins writes). Having called off a trip to the West Country, Mr Heseltine concentrated on wooing the parliamentary party from behind closed doors.

Hurd stakes his appeal on ability to unite party

By PHILIP WEBSTER, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

DOUGLAS Hurd yesterday spoke of the virtues of sound money and social responsibility as he staked his appeal to Conservative MPs on his experience in foreign affairs and his ability to unite the party in time to win the next general election.

The foreign secretary made a review of the community charge designed to make it fairer and more acceptable to the public an urgent priority of a Hurd cabinet. But he appeared to rule out a referendum on a single European currency.

Launching his leadership campaign at a press conference at the Foreign Office, Mr Hurd said that the Gulf confrontation "weighs on my mind among the issues more

heavily than anything else at the present time." Referring to the consideration by the UN security council next week of a resolution authorising member states to use force to reverse Iraqi aggression, he said he hoped it would be the latest of the peaceful pressures on Saddam Hussein to encourage him to withdraw.

"I don't know whether those peaceful pressures will work - and that is why I fear the crisis is entering a crucial, critical phase and in the next weeks and months we will be in that phase."

He said that events in the next weeks would require cool, authoritative and resolute handling. "I believe I can offer the country the experience I have gained working with the prime minister at the centre of the world alliance against Iraq's aggression."

Mr Hurd said that improvements to the poll tax were being made but went on: "I do not think that will be enough. It is clear to me from all the messages I have had, not least in the last few days, that everybody wants us to have another look at it."

Mr Hurd's lack of experience in an economic ministry is being cited against him by his opponents. But a important part of his "manifesto" was an exhortation to see the fight against inflation through to success which he said was "essential if we are to safeguard the inheritance of Margaret Thatcher's three administrations."

Mr Hurd said: "We must listen, decide, persuade. That is the essence of democratic government. Assertion is not the same as persuasion. We must spend more time on persuasion."

Mr Hurd was questioned about his social background. An Old Etonian he is viewed in some quarters at Westminster as the establishment candidate.

"I would like you to go to the farmhouse in Marlborough Downs where I was brought up. My father was a tenant farmer farming 500 acres. He became the agricultural correspondent of *The Times* and got a number of other journalistic appointments."

"I was not uncomfortably off. I am not saying that. But there was no question of him sending me to Eton if I had not won a scholarship. That is what social mobility is all about."

Mr Hurd supported Mrs Thatcher's pledge that a Conservative government should seek to reduce taxes. There would be no question of seeking to prevent the reforms in the health service and in the educational system which the present government had set in hand.

Asked to define his position in the party, he said: "I come clearly from the centre of the Conservative party. Support for my cause comes from all parts of the Conservative parliamentary party. It is on that basis that the first task, unifying the Conservative party, can be done."



Fighting talk: a shirt-sleeved Douglas Hurd in ebullient form at a press conference in London yesterday

Major sets his sights on a classless society in Britain by the year 2000

By ROBIN OAKLEY, POLITICAL EDITOR

JOHN Major opened his campaign for the Tory leadership yesterday by pledging to make Britain a classless society by the year 2000.

He announced his belief in concentrating tax cuts on the lower-paid and gave great emphasis to the need to increase the status of the teaching profession. The chancellor made it plain that he would not hesitate to change the policies of Mrs Thatcher's government where he saw proven need to do so and in response to questions made plain his opposition to the idea of referendums.

He said: "I certainly don't rule out the need for further changes in the community charge. I have become increasingly convinced we will not be able to leave things as they are. But he insisted that any changes should not simply be a matter of shifting the burden from one area to another, seemingly coming down against Mr

Heseltine's idea of switching educational expenditure to central government.

Claiming to have won the support of 124 MPs, a third of the Tory parliamentary party, Mr Major underlined his claims for the leadership by stressing that the next election would be decided on economic issues. He added: "I believe the party both can and will unite after this leadership election. I certainly have no doubt, were I elected leader, I would be able to unite them."

Urging the need for greater social mobility, he said there was a need to do more to improve educational standards for the 1990s generation.

The Chancellor said one of the Government's greatest achievements had been to narrow the gap between blue-collar and white-collar workers. By increasing personal choice and opportunity he wanted to see that gap reduced still further. He wanted "changes to

produce across the whole of this country a genuinely classless society so people can rise to whatever level from whatever level they started."

Possibly nervous about prejudicing some of his right wing votes, Mr Major dodged questions about whether he would serve in a government led by Michael Heseltine, claiming that it was a constitutional point. But there was a clear implication that he would be willing to serve if Mr Heseltine

wins when he said that after the leadership contest people should offer their skills to whoever became prime minister.

The chancellor gave journalists the latest Test score from Australia: England all out for 194. Mr Major, who needs 187 votes next Tuesday, said: "It is not a good score for them but would be a perfectly satisfactory score for me."

Interview, page 12

Bright young things latch on to challenge

By BILL FROST

JOHN Major's campaign headquarters were buzzing with activity yesterday as the bright young Tories who have attached themselves to his challenge for the party leadership fielded phone calls every couple of minutes.

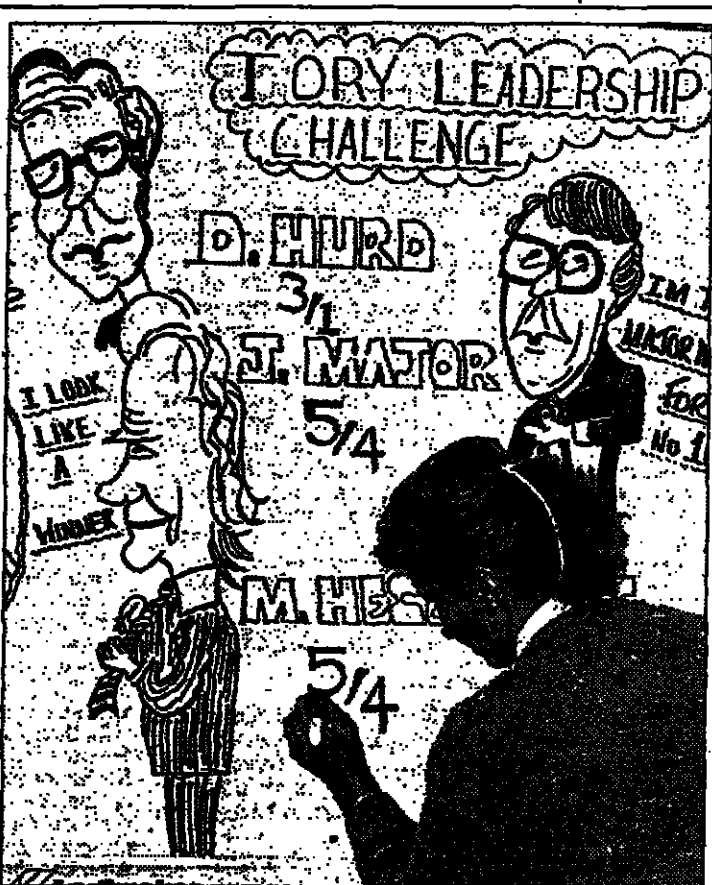
The elegant Georgian townhouse in Westminster, just 100 yards from central office, was transformed into a political operations room at 11.30 am on Thursday. Alan Duncan, whose home has become the nerve centre of the Major campaign, said: "I got the call from one of Mr Major's aides and, within hours, we had installed four extra phone lines, a word processor and a computer."

Mr Duncan, prospective parliamentary candidate for the sixth safest Tory seat in the country, Rutland and Melton, has resigned himself to late nights, early mornings and gallons of black coffee for the duration of the campaign. "We haven't stopped since we knew John was standing." The young

Tory Majorettes at campaign HQ are energetic and enthusiastic. They are infinitely patient too, still managing to be polite to yet another reporter from a BBC programme.

Happy to be of service, the Majorettes bustled about while a succession of backbenchers and ministers arrived yesterday for secret meetings in a basement room. Among those who beat a path to Gayle Street was William Hague, the MP for Richmond, Yorks, who said yesterday: "We have canvassed two-thirds of MPs now and have firm pledges from 124." What about the waverers though, those who might change their allegiance over the weekend? "We have taken that into account," he said. "During the weekend we will be phoning round to make sure they haven't switched."

He added: "This shows no signs of becoming a dirty tricks campaign. There is a lot less bitterness and rancour around now."



Tory stakes odds in the Conservative leadership voting are marked at a London branch of the bookmaker Ladbrokes, which yesterday saw John Major take over from Michael Heseltine as clear favourite. At the end of the day, Mr Major was quoted at even, with Mr Heseltine at 11-8 and Douglas Hurd at 7-2. An overseas supporter of John Major placed two bets of £10,000, one at 6-4 and the other at 5-4, with Ladbrokes. Carls also opened with Mr Heseltine as favourite but quickly cast the odds on Mr Major after several bets of £2,000 were placed, and later offered Mr Major at 11-10, Mr Heseltine at 5-4 and Mr Hurd at 7-2. William Hague, who has Mr Major as even money favourite, with Mr Heseltine quoted at 5-4, and Mr Hurd at 4-1.

BBC quick to line up Sunday interviews

By MELINDA WHITSTOCK
MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

BBC Television may have been two minutes behind its rivals with news of Margaret Thatcher's resignation, but it was the first yesterday to line up Sunday interviews with those struggling to replace her.

Michael Heseltine, Douglas Hurd and John Major were all quick yesterday morning to confirm pre-recorded interviews with Jonathan Dimbleby on BBC1's *On The Record*, to be aired at 1pm tomorrow, 10 minutes before LWT's *Walden*. LWT later said

that it, too, would be screening pre-recorded interviews with all three candidates.

Both *Walden* and *On The Record* will transmit the interviews unedited, as if live.

TV-am has persuaded Mr Hurd and Mr Major to appear live on David Frost's *Frost On Sunday* at 8am but failed to get Mr Heseltine, who said his schedule was too busy. Mr Major will be in the studio and Mr Hurd will appear via a studio link.

ITN, which over the weekend runs only news bulletins, has not scheduled any special Tory leader-

ship programmes. Nor has BBC Radio or any commercial radio station.

Radio 4 will this morning examine the contest on *Today* and on *The World This Weekend* at 1pm on tomorrow but no interviews with any candidates have been set up.

BBC1 however will run a special edition repeat of Mr Dimbleby's *On The Record* at 10.55pm tomorrow night in which a studio audience of 50, chosen by Gallup as representative of the country, will be wired or "people-metered" for their responses and "body

language" reactions to clips of the earlier interviews with all three candidates.

Responses of individuals in the audience to what the candidates say, ranging from approval and disapproval to interest and disinterest, will be announced by Mr Dimbleby as the programme is transmitted.

"The monitor may show that 60 per cent of the audience responded positively to something one candidate said or that 40 per cent reacted with complete disinterest to what another said," a BBC TV spokesman said.

Contestants wooing the Thatcher loyalists

By RICHARD FORD
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

AS HIS two rivals for the Conservative party leadership formally launched their campaigns yesterday, Michael Heseltine continued to stress that he was the candidate best placed to win the next general election.

With John Major and Douglas Hurd highlighting their experience in top cabinet jobs, Mr Heseltine will spend the next few days trying to prevent any erosion of his vote and also in appealing to the loyal supporters of Mrs Thatcher on the right of the party.

The worst fear of the Heseltine camp is that their candidate will prove to have been a high-class stalling horse and that some of those who voted for Mr Heseltine only did so to force Mrs Thatcher to withdraw and that they will switch to another candidate.

His supporters have identified John Major as the main threat to his chance to win the leadership contest and are wooing the right, by promoting Mr Heseltine's credentials in introducing Thatcher-style policies while at the environment and defence departments.

Mr Heseltine said he was a "radical reforming Tory" and that young people who had supported Mrs Thatcher had begun to listen to him.

"People are listening to what I am saying and realising that actually I am a radical reforming Tory wanting to push the frontiers into the 1990s, but to do that and keep up the momentum of change and protect all we have achieved in the Eighties we have got to win," he said. He will emphasise during the next few days that a vote for him will revive Conservative fortunes.

The Heseltine camp denies that the entry of Mr Major and Mr Hurd has caused any slippage of his vote but for the first time since he launched his challenge, the former defence secretary named former Thatcher loyalists who were supporting him.

In doing so, Mr Heseltine's supporters intend to create an impression that a bandwagon is moving inexorably in their favour and to victory.

However, both Mr Major and Mr Hurd have acted swiftly to steal one of the main planks of Mr Heseltine's appeal to the party. Yesterday both men pledged to look again at the poll tax. Mr Heseltine commented ruefully: "I hear Douglas and John are saying that now."

That is what I said when I decided to stand and it will be of central importance to our party to get that review over and done with and our commitments made."

Before voting on Tuesday, he will stress his support in the regions and will target marginal seats across northern England. Sir Neil Macfarlane, a leading Heseltine campaigner, said support had come from Scotland, the North and Midlands, which was an essential ingredient of his leadership contest.

Although yesterday was a low-key day for the campaign, the Heseltine team is confident opinion polls over the next few days will show he is the man capable of taking the party to a fourth general election victory. He will spend most of today preparing for a television interview tomorrow by Brian Walden.

Rules of the contest

By JOHN WINDER

The second ballot for the Conservative leadership will take place in a Westminster committee room on Tuesday. A winner needs the support of the majority of the party's MPs, or 187 votes.

If none of the three contenders secures a majority, they will go on to a third ballot on Thursday. This will involve MPs naming their first and second choice of leader. If no candidate receives an overall majority, the man coming third is eliminated and his second-choice votes redistributed among his rivals to find a winner.

There were a number of people who said: "I was not sure if I was going to vote for Heseltine but now I am pointing it in his direction."

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Promises of poll tax reform may be too late for general election

Neither Mr Hurd nor Mr Major has given any indication that they would live above the office prime minister, but both have young families. Both have homes outside London, and Mr Major

Spring - although in recent years Nigel Lawson's young family spent much of their time at No 10 while father was wrestling with the economy and are reputed to have irritated their next-door neighbours, Mr Thatcher, with their choice of pop music.

The size of No. 10's living accommodation could also be a problem for the Hurds or the Majors, because although it could be quickly adapted by craftsmen that the Property Services Agency has on call, it has, over the years, become a relatively small flat.

The new "first lady" will also find it difficult quickly to stamp her personality on the house because it is presently nearing the end of a £300,000 refurbishment programme, and most of the decisions about furnishings and fittings have been made by Mr Thatcher. The work is intended to restore to its mid-18th century grandeur the interior of the house, accepted by the first prime minister, Sir Robert Walpole, as an official residence for himself and his successors as First Lord of the

Graham Gooch makes his selection of the best England-Australia postwar cricket XI in The Sunday Times tomorrow. You could win £2,000 if the team on your Test Selector game card matches that of the England captain.

the right of the party, the three contenders for power were all pitching strongly for support in this area. Mr Heseltine said on ITN news that he was a "radical reforming Tory" and that Mrs Thatcher's young Turks were beginning to turn to him as they

realised that their past suspicions of his ideological outlook were misplaced. Sir Neil MacFarlane, one of his campaign chiefs, said that about 40 Thatcher supporters had switched to the former defence secretary.

Norman Tebbit, who has spoken of bringing 80-90 votes with him to the Major camp, has nominated the chancellor as the man who can unite the two wings of the Tory party. But supporters insisted that right-wingers were deluding themselves if they thought Mr Major was one of them.

They insisted he was "dripping wet" on social issues. But by declaring the right's "lemming-like" rush to Mr Major, they were

A senior member of the Hurd team predicted that support for Mr Heseltine would begin to crumble this weekend as MPs faced party workers holding him responsible for Mrs Thatcher's resignation. But with the media full of reports about cabinet assassins, it seemed unlikely yesterday that one man could take the credit or the blame for ending a political era.

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Members of the 'one of us' group contemplate life in exile

By SHEILA GUNN
POLITICAL REPORTER

MARGARET Thatcher's departure will seal the fate of the inner circle whose close association with her during the past 11 years marks them out for exile from Downing Street under a new leader.

Those honoured and reviled for their membership of the "one of us" group will look to Mrs Thatcher's resignation honours list for solace. In line for peerages, or at least knighthoods, must be her press secretary Bernard Ingham, the foreign policy adviser Charles Powell and Professor Brian Griffiths, head of her policy unit.

Others whose political influence has been inextricably linked to her tenure include Sir Ronald Miller, John Whittingdale and Tim Bell. As a playwright Sir Ronald added "sound-bites" to prime ministerial speeches.

At 31, John Whittingdale, Mrs Thatcher's political secretary, has already spent three years at Downing Street and the previous

ten years in the Conservative research department. The procurement of a safe Tory seat is likely to be his next ambition.

Although Douglas Hurd and John Major could arguably benefit from an "insage-maker" if they succeed, neither is expected to call in Mrs Thatcher's favourite adviser, Tim Bell. It was to the Australian-born advertising agent that she turned to for professional "packaging and presentation" during general election campaigns.

The influence of Bernard Ingham and Charles Powell crops up in any discussion about the handling of the deepest crises faced by Mrs Thatcher, ranging from the Falklands to the Westland dispute.

Mr Ingham, once dubbed the "real deputy prime minister", is preparing to vacate his ground floor office fronting on Downing Street for early retirement.

Charles Powell is expected to reject offers of a senior diplomatic post overseas and go to a merchant bank. Mr Ingham said: "I



Ingham: "Happy to retire"



Powell: the whispering man



Griffiths: shake-up likely

have always said I would go to the next election with the prime minister. As far as I am concerned I am quite happy to retire now."

For the man from Hebbden Bridge who came to echo to the world's media the prime minister's philosophy, her attitudes, her much-debated "style" so exactly for 11 years, the idea of the big Yorkshireman serving a

Heseltine, a Hurd or a Major is almost unimaginable.

He says of Mrs Thatcher: "I think she is a wonderful prime minister to serve because she knows her own mind. Ministers who know their own mind are a godsend to their press secretaries. My job was to represent her views. I hope I have done that with reasonable accuracy." That

comment will be regarded as a typical understatement from the man who became increasingly impatient at the questioning of Mrs Thatcher's decisions by the press.

As she rarely talked to newspaper journalists, Mr Ingham was the voice of Thatcher. His comments at the off-the-record briefings of lobby journalists had to be

attributed to "government sources". His influence will continue to be felt in Whitehall for years to come as he leaves behind a network of chief information officers heading the main government departments who had come through the Ingham school.

His role sowed relations between Downing Street and the Foreign Office while many ministers have had cause to fear his influence. Labour MPs detected the influence of someone who is officially a civil servant, depicting him as an omnipotent ogre practising machievellian arts. But his roots were in Yorkshire and the Labour party for which he once stood unsuccessfully as a local election candidate in Leeds.

He was educated at Hebbden Bridge grammar school and began his working life on the local paper. He moved to industrial reporting for the Yorkshire Post and The Guardian. He later switched to the civil service, working as a press officer for Barbara Castle, Lord Carrington, Maurice Mac-

millan and Tony Benn. He joined Mrs Thatcher after she had been prime minister for six months. Charles Powell was seconded from the Foreign Office to Downing Street in 1984 and, as a civil servant, should also have remained one of Mrs Thatcher's backroom boys. Instead, he became widely known as the man whispering in her ear on the many overseas visits, signifying an unhealthy influence, most notably on Mrs Thatcher's stance to the European Community.

Given Mrs Thatcher's suspicion of the Foreign Office, some of his former colleagues created his devotion to the prime minister as near-treachery.

The future of Brian Griffiths and his six-strong policy unit in offices above 10 and 11 Downing Street is uncertain. The Welshman is regarded as a moral crusader, whether fighting taxation or espousing traditional family values. The unit is likely to be shaken up, with the former dean of the City University business school displaced.

Labour faces life without ready-made bete noire

By PHILIP WEBSTER, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Labour leadership was yesterday coming to terms with life after Thatcher. It is already reviewing its tactics to take account of the departure from the scene of the woman many opposition MPs have regarded as their greatest electoral asset.

Some in the Labour party made the same mistake as many of Margaret Thatcher's closest supporters: they had begun to believe in her invincibility. Late on Wednesday, members of the shadow cabinet — like the hardcore Thatcherites trying to stiffen her resolve — found it hard to accept that her hours were numbered.

But if their fox had been shot, Labour leaders were remarkably sanguine yesterday. By no means all the party's strategists were certain that Mrs Thatcher would have remained a liability to her party right up to election day. The all-party praise for her Commons tour de force on Thursday was genuine; more than one Labour front-bencher openly voiced bewilderment that Conservative MPs should have sacked a leader capable of such brilliance. And she had beaten them three times.

Mrs Thatcher was a formidable election-fighter who had recovered from considerable public hostility in 1981 and 1985 to win landslide general elections two years later. Labour could never quite be sure that she would not reproduce the old magic.

The other big consolation was the manner of her going. The

spectacle of the Tory party ditching a leader who had given them three election victories and then proffering her a standing ovation would have been nauseating to the public, Labour calculates. "Given her extraordinary unpopularity, you might have expected rejoicing in the streets when she went. But it has not happened. The people are bemused," a strategist said. "But Conservative MPs will find a backlash in their constituencies."

Furthermore, Mrs Thatcher's departure removes a gut politician who Labour admitted could appeal to some of its own constituency in the skilled working class, a feat that may be beyond the three pretenders to her crown.

While Labour would have preferred the internal Tory agony to continue with a wounded prime minister struggling on for a few months yet, the leadership contest has again brought the community charge on to the political agenda, with all three contenders promising to look yet again at its operation. Labour will be able to argue that it has worked out an alternative while the Tories are all promising jam tomorrow.

Neil Kinnock said yesterday it was immaterial to Labour whether John Major, Michael Heseltine or Douglas Hurd won the struggle. He likened them to the "three wise monkeys" who saw, heard and spoke no evil while serving Mrs Thatcher. They were stained by the past. Given his cabinet walk-out of 1986 that charge will be more difficult to sustain against Mr Heseltine and it appears that Labour strategists feel they have most to fear from him.

On the plus side, Labour feels that Mr Heseltine, who started the leadership battle, has been tarnished by the recriminations surrounding Mrs Thatcher's removal. He may also be an easier target. Labour's election staff have been collecting some less-than-complimentary descriptions of the Healey MP made by his parliamentary colleagues. "Junk jewellery" from a backbencher, "glamour without substance" from Mrs Thatcher. All will be thrown at Mr Heseltine when the time comes.

Labour fully expects that the new prime minister will have a honeymoon period; polls suggest it has already begun. But this will occur over the Christmas period when an election could not be called in any case. The economic problems will meanwhile remain.

Labour regards Mr Major and Mr Hurd as grey men incapable of setting the pulse of the nation racing. Mr Major, they think, will be particularly cautious because if he wins he will do so with the help of many of the Thatcher faithful. But their abilities are respected. Labour campaigns over the coming weeks will seek to portray whoever wins as a man of the Thatcher years, deeply implicated in the policies which can have changed little by the time the election comes. Labour will present itself as the new generation.

Reality behind the unique facade

After the rebellious Sixties, the Thatcher's children generation was dismissed as dull and materialistic. Jamie Dettmer asks: were they all that different from their predecessors?

EACH generation believes itself to be unique. The beatniks and hippies of the swinging Sixties had a particularly strong sense of breaking away from their parents and seemed ill at ease with Thatcher's children, that group of adults who reached voting age after Mrs Thatcher came to power in 1979 and have known no other prime minister.

Thatcher's children were accused of being hard-nosed, greedy, unfeeling, amoral yuppies who brayed loudly in the wine bars that sprouted up in virtually every town centre in the country. Their symbol was the Filofax, their preferred car, the brutish-looking Porsche.

Even supporters of Mrs Thatcher worried about the behaviour being spawned by the accumulation and spread of wealth. Peregrine Worsthorne in the *Sunday Telegraph* cautioned Conservatives after the 1987 general election against "bourgeois triumphalism". He wrote: "Vulgarity rules OK and the yuppies feel confident enough to shed all inhibitions about enjoying the spoils of the class war which they think Mrs Thatcher has fought on their behalf."

The Thatcher children who had not achieved the level of affluence of their peers in the City or in the estate agencies in the High Streets were portrayed by other commentators as equally marked by selfishness. They were the larger louts who disturbed the peace and quiet of rural England or the football hooligans who brought mayhem to the Continent. They were the new poor who felt dispossessed by Britain's political institutions, uncaressed for and alienated to the extent that they turned to violence.

The Labour party and liberal critics in the Church of England played on these perceptions, using them as a stick with which to beat Mrs Thatcher. She, after all, they argued, had set herself up as a revolutionary in values, the prime minister who wanted to engineer a change in social attitudes.

Social surveys throughout Mrs Thatcher's time in office suggested, however, that the picture was far more complex.

A survey conducted by Mintel in 1988 cast doubt on the free-wheeling, wine-bar image. "Thatcher's children have little time for frivolity," the report said. They wanted to be model citizens and desired a responsible place in the world of work.

The respondents in the survey rejected non-conformity. They wanted money, consumer goods and designer clothes but placed an even higher value on family relationships. This survey did not satisfy some critics, and it sparked a series of articles on how boring Thatcher's children were and how a new, dull conformism was being established.

A series of group discussions with the young and in-depth polling by *The Times* in 1986 provided a remarkable insight into Thatcher's children and



New generation: Sir Geoffrey Howe yesterday with children destined to grow up under a new regime

showed that their most characteristic political attitude was one of apathy. "This political apathy is surely something more than a listless unconcern for the issues of the day: rather a positive opting-out of the whole political process."

The good news for the prime minister was that Thatcher's children were sceptical of the power of government to improve their lives. Generally, they did not blame government for unemployment. They were prepared to get on their bikes. But any high hopes Mrs Thatcher had of having encouraging the rise of a thriving, confident generation seemed in one way to be dashed by the results of the polling by Mori in *The Times*. Thatcher's children were sceptical of their own powers to improve their lives.

More than 60 per cent of the respondents thought the prime minister was out of touch with young people. In group discussions she was highly criticised, but she also clearly had the strongest image of any party leader. The ambivalence of the young to the woman who had dominated their adult political lives was striking. The young displayed a perverse fascination with Mrs Thatcher. "I don't like her, I admire her," said one young woman. Another remarked: "I can't stand the sight of her, but her politics are quite good. I think it is good how she's kept things steady."

She came across to them as a high-school mistress, irritating and bossy but someone who had

to be listened to. She did not have to be obeyed, though, nor agreed with on some of the essential Thatcherite policies.

Like the wider electorate, Thatcher's children would seem to have rejected the idea of a low-tax economy. The evidence is in some ways anecdotal or buried in broader surveys of British social attitudes. Earlier this month, one survey showed that the enterprise culture as an idea still had not

been taken firm root in the mind of the British public. Eleven years of Thatcherism seems to have failed to convince Thatcher's children of the ideas of tax-cutting and reducing the responsibilities and costs of the welfare state. Maybe this reflects a belt-and-braces attitude to life: economic ills might not be the government's fault, independence and consumerism are desirable, but just in case things go wrong let's have a wide and high safety net of dependency. Is it a case of two steps forward, one step back?

Teachers and academics who have had more than one generation pass through their hands tend to the view that the Thatcher

generation has displayed differences from its predecessors. Christopher Andrew, senior tutor at Corpus Christi, Cambridge, says: "It is difficult to generalise but there have been differences. It was difficult in the 1970s to get students to think about jobs. That has changed now. Also, the acceptance of British decline prevalent in the 1970s has long gone." He has also noticed a hard-nosed quality among his students since 1979.

Thatcher's children may not have been as colourful as the Sixties generation. They did not feel they had to rebel against the restrictive sexual morals of their parents or demand the chance to play loud music or to dress the way they wanted to. Those battles had already been fought and won.

The Sixties had given rise to a thousand blooms of rebellion. Thatcher's children could not hope to compete with the wilder side of the beatniks and hippies, and, anyway, they had an affluence and consumerism to enjoy that the fans of the Beatles and the Rolling Stones could not have imagined.

But are the differences that marked both generations desired a mixture of independence and dependence. They both wanted a place in the world. Environmental concerns of the young in the Sixties and in the Eighties have been strong. Scepticism of the political process was marked in the Sixties as well. As the Bible put it: "One generation passeth away, and another generation cometh."

● I can't stand the sight of her, but her politics are quite good and she's kept things going steady ●

Contenders 'stained by Thatcherism'

By CRAIG SETON

THE three contenders for the Tory party leadership were stained by Thatcherism, Neil Kinnock, the Labour leader, said yesterday in a scathing attack on Michael Heseltine, John Major and Douglas Hurd.

It was immaterial who won the Conservative leadership, he said, and dismissed opinion polls that have suggested that any of the three candidates as leader would destroy Labour's lead in the ratings. Any improvement for the Conservatives would evaporate very quickly, he added.

Mr Kinnock, visiting Birmingham, said that none of the three candidates could unite the Conservative party. "I think the general public will continue to be bemused, some of them appalled and some delighted by the spectacle they are about to see unfolding of three people who were among the plotters to overthrow Mrs Thatcher trying again to outdo each other in pledges of loyalty and respect to her."

"I think that kind of hypocrisy nauseates everybody, whatever their politics. It also destroys their claims that they have any trustworthy characteristics."

Mr Kinnock likened the candidates to three monkeys "who have seen no evil, heard no evil and have not been prepared to say anything about evil". All three were proud of the past 11 years of Thatcherism and had been faithful adherents of policies that had brought recession, high inflation and interest rates, rising unemployment and more and more business failures, he said.

Goodbye prime minister, hello Countess of Finchley

By ALAN HAMILTON

MARGARET Thatcher's retirement from office could lead to the creation of the Countess of Finchley, or even the Duchess of Grantham.

Retiring prime ministers have traditionally, at a decent interval after their departure, been offered hereditary titles, although Lords Wilson and Callaghan, because of their socialist principles, accepted only life peerages. Mrs Thatcher has, however, revived the creation of hereditary peerages, belatedly bestowing the earldom of Stockton on Harold Macmillan and making Willie Whitelaw and

George Thomas, now Lord Tony, viscounts.

Only Edward Heath among recent prime ministers has no title, having declined the honour so that he could remain in the Commons. As he may feel that, with the imminent departure of his principal adversary, his life's task has now been accomplished, the earldom might, at last, beckon.

It would accord entirely with Mrs Thatcher's style to take a similar view and to decline, at least for the time being, any honour that kept her out of the Commons. Churchill, on his retirement, was offered the rare and high honour of a dukedom,

but did not care for the idea, partly, it is said, because he could not afford the lifestyle and partly because he shuddered at the thought of his son Randolph inheriting the title.

He was, however, personally honoured by the Queen with membership of the Order of the Garter, the nation's highest and most exclusive order of chivalry, as was Harold Wilson.

Were the Queen to feel that Mrs Thatcher's extraordinary tenure merited extraordinary recognition, she has in her gift the Garter, limited to 24 members, and at present without a vacancy. In spite of considerable dif-

ferences in outlook, style and personality, the world's two most powerful women have had much mutual respect and have not allowed their differences to interfere with affairs of state. Mrs Thatcher's two-minute audience on Thursday to the Queen of her decision stretched to half an hour.

Genealogists have suggested that a suitable championing of women's advancement would be for the first female prime minister to be granted a title that descended through the female line. That can happen in the Scottish peerage but not, at present, in England, with rare

exceptions such as the present Countess Mountbatten, whose father was granted a special provision because he had no sons.

Were Mrs Thatcher to be created Countess of Finchley in her own right, there would be no automatic title for her husband, who would remain Mr Denis Thatcher. He could, however, apply to use the courtesy title of Lord Thatcher.

Even in the event of Mrs Thatcher being granted the high honour of the Iron Duchess, there would be no automatic title for her spouse. Instead, they would be known down Duddell way as the Duchess and Denis.

Uphill all the way to regain North

By RICHARD FORD
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

ONE of the charges laid against the Thatcher years was that they had seen a widening of the North-South divide, with the Conservative party winning fewer and fewer seats in major northern cities.

Yesterday, Michael Heseltine subtly introduced the argument into the leadership contest by saying that he knew the scale of the task facing the party in winning back support in the north.

The organisation had to avoid just listening to people at the centre of the activist element of the party, he said. Perhaps, he added, they had not been on the streets as he had, or as far north or to the Midlands and Scotland.

Yet the choice facing Conservative MPs is to pick a leader and election-winner from three men who all have roots deep in the Home Counties of southern England.

Conservative MPs with marginal seats in northern England, Wales and Scotland will be weighing up which candidate can win back voters who have deserted the Tory party in the past 18 months.

Although Margaret Thatcher proved that populist policies could overcome the perceived disadvantages of a base in the home counties to enable the Tories to make inroads into Labour's heartlands, many MPs are worried that, without her personality, support for the party will decline.

Mr Heseltine's campaign scored a coup when the Conservative party deputy chairman, the bluff Lancastrian David Trippier, backed the former defence secretary as the next leader. Mr Trippier, MP for the marginal seat of Rossendale and Darwen, said that Mr Heseltine was the best candidate to unite the party, and a man "who has the best interests of the North at heart".

The northern marginal card will be played heavily by Mr Heseltine's supporters during the next few days as he attempts to win over supporters on the right of the party who do not form his natural constituency. Mr Heseltine's call for a review of the poll tax was aimed in particular at MPs with northern marginal seats in which voters have been his base by its introduction. In a party in which virtually the only question among MPs is "Who can win the next general election?", it is a powerful weapon for the Heseltine camp.

Even opponents of Mr Heseltine admit that he starts with an advantage over Mr Hurd and Mr Major in seeking support among northern and regional MPs. After the Toxteth riots he was unofficially designated "Mr Merseyside", leading several Tory party professionals in the North to believe that he is the man who understands their area and can win votes.

One party agent in northern England said that on the basis of his work in Liverpool, he believed that Mr Heseltine had an affinity with the North and understood its problems better than the other two candidates. The paradox, as his opponents point out, is that Mr Heseltine is a self-made millionaire with a southern constituency, a large country estate and a home in Belgravia, London.

Yet other party professionals argue that Mr Heseltine's charisma and glamour would help the party to win votes not only in the regions, but also in southern marginal seats. During the Bradford North by-election, he was the Conservative politician most often mentioned by voters, particularly floating voters, as the man they would like to be prime minister.

Judith Duckworth, the party agent for Elnet, whose MP, Spencer Hargreave, is backing Mr Heseltine, said: "From my personal contacts with voters, he is the man they want to succeed. They think that he has the common touch and listens to the voters."

In stressing the importance of the regions, Mr Heseltine is seeking support from the right of the party, a strategy rewarded yesterday by declarations of support from Thatcher loyalists such as David Evans, MP for Welwyn Hatfield, and Dame Jill Knight, MP for Birmingham Edgbaston.

World figure who overcame Little Englander image

By ANDREW MCEWEN, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

WHEN Margaret Thatcher took the Conservative leadership in 1979, many feared that her limited knowledge of foreign affairs and "Little Englander" mentality would damage Britain's standing abroad. It was not foreseen that she would become a world figure with a status out of proportion to Britain's importance, enjoying global recognition on a par with Presidents Reagan, Bush and Gorbachev.

While her fighting spirit won admiration abroad, it was ironic that overseas policy should prove both the making and the downfall of a leader who began as a foreign affairs sceptic. But for Leopoldo Galtieri's miscalculation in 1982 she might never have had a chance to show her mettle. But for divisions on Europe she might have retained Sir Geoffrey Howe's loyalty.

Soon after she won the 1979 leadership contest, it was realised that she had a huge amount to learn but had a prodigious ability to absorb information. Her first forays abroad were not impressive, suggesting a lack of interest bordering on disdain for Europeans. Her foreign policy seemed confined to Cold War basics, robust on the North Atlantic alliance and Britain's relationship with the United States but weak in other areas. It was this which led some to feel she was xenophobic, something later disproved.

When Edward Heath took

Britain into the European Community in 1973, many on both sides of the Commons were unhappy that Britain had been forced to accept the common agricultural policy, abandoning Britain's policy of low food prices and deficiency payments for farmers. Before Mrs Thatcher took office it was clear that eventually Britain would be paying a disproportionate share of the EC budget.

Her battle for a fairer deal was ultimately successful, helped by a "soft man, hard woman" duo with Sir Geoffrey. However, the political blood spilt on the way to the Fontainebleau compromise of 1984 hardened her attitude. Her distrust of an unaccountable bureaucracy in Brussels, coupled with a Gaullist vision of a wider Europe of independent nations, emerged strongly in her speech to the College of Europe in Bruges.

Mrs Thatcher relished the uproar it caused, perhaps unaware how much Sir Geoffrey resented the tone rather than the substance of her comments. She believed she had struck a popular chord, but public opinion was changing.

The split led to Mrs Thatcher being repeatedly forced to give in after vociferously resisting moves wanted by the rest of Europe. There was humiliation, although she never acknowledged it, in her defeats on the Single European Act, which provided for majority voting on EC internal market issues,

on the first stage of Jacques Delors's plans for economic and monetary union, and on the convening of two inter-governmental conferences.

The explanation that Mrs Thatcher was unafraid to fight her corner even when defeat was inevitable had a ring of the Crimean war about it. The nickname "Iron Lady", which she had so much enjoyed, came to imply rigidity rather than strength.

The appointment of Sir Geoffrey in 1983 led to a review of foreign policy objectives which was to have great impact. A possibility of change in the Soviet Union was spotted two years before it began. Mikhail Gorbachev was correctly identified as the probable future leader six months before his appointment as general secretary. A stage-managed visit under the auspices of the Inter-Parliamentary Union gave her the opportunity to say that he was a man with whom she could do business. Her influence with President Reagan helped to bring the East-West thaw from 1985 to 1988, before the huge changes of the last two years. It was her most important foreign policy achievement.

The alliance policy of not relaxing NATO's defences until it became clear that the changes were irreversible proved effective. It is often forgotten that the government courted unpopularity by allowing the deployment of US cruise missiles in Britain. Without cruise and the Pershing missiles deployed in Germany, the US-Soviet Intermediate Nuclear Forces (INF) treaty would probably not have been signed in 1987. Mrs Thatcher's unsuccessful attempt to persuade NATO to build a replacement for the obsolete Lance short-range missile made her appear to be trying to sustain the Cold War. However, it was probably motivated by her belief that Moscow still had some way to go and would respond faster to sticks than carrots.

The most important plank of her foreign policy has been unwavering loyalty to Washington through thick and thin. She was furious that Mr Reagan ordered the invasion of Grenada without consulting her, but did not allow her anger to damage the relationship.

When Mr Reagan wanted to use US planes based in Britain to bomb Tripoli, she gave full support. Her farewell visit to Washington at the end of his presidency suggested a warm personal relationship. She was probably hurt when it became clear that President Bush was giving more attention to Germany and France than Britain, but appeared to bounce back in August. He has acknowledged that she was a source of strength when Iraq invaded Kuwait.

Mrs Thatcher's Middle East policy has been a mixed bag. Her decision to break links with Libya in 1984 and Syria in 1986 showed that she would have no truck with sponsors of terrorism. However, she has been slow to change in the national interest, which would have made renewed links with Syria desirable some time ago.

She will also be remembered for her defence of South Africa against international sanctions, a policy which set uneasily with her subsequent enthusiasm for sanctions against Iraq. Whether she helped bring about change in Pretoria or delayed it is hard to tell. Meanwhile, the divisions her policy caused in the Commonwealth have begun to heal.



Far cry: supporters of Margaret Thatcher in Brisbane displaying their allegiance yesterday during the first day's play in England's First Test against Australia. An abundance of Union Jacks did not help the England team, though, which was all out for 194. Match report, page 28

'Bye bye Maggie, we will miss you' but European press predicts faster EC unity

By ALICE THOMSON

"BYE Bye dear Maggie you'll be missed." The headline in Belgium's *La Dernière Heure* characterised the reaction of West European papers.

The press praised Mrs Thatcher for saving Britain from potential economic ruin in 1979, but said that her European policies could have been catastrophic. Papers also grudgingly admitted that the comfortable alibi of other member states no less disgruntled with EC policies than Mrs Thatcher had gone.

The Rome newspaper *La Repubblica* said Mrs Thatcher's resignation was a welcome relief for the march to European unification. "Her withdrawal marks a turning-point for the Continent. That character so insular, so British middle-class has weighed on the people of the Continent much more than any other leader of the same period," the editorial said.

In France *Le Monde* asked who would defend Europeans against the encroaching power of Community institutions after Mrs Thatcher. The editorial said: "In defying the interior 'Europeans of Brussels' the British prime minister expressed a sentiment shared by many citizens of the Old Continent. Perhaps one will soon notice that Europe also needed a Cassandra."

In Belgium newspapers said that Mrs Thatcher's flirtation with outdated national grandeur was over. "The island must accept the Channel tunnel as a symbol of the link with the Continent and take a constructive pro-European course," *Het Volk*, the Ghent newspaper, said. *De Standard* stated: "The three candidate leaders think differently about Europe and will seek a more flexible approach."

The Spanish paper *El País* said: "Observers do not expect her successor to be an ardent EC prophet, it would suffice if he does not regard the EC as a threat." However, the monarchist *ABC* said: "Thatcher confronted a concept of Europe which other members reject as well while remaining comfortably silent. Now Thatcherism will begin to emerge in The Hague and Bonn, in Rome and Madrid."

The French left rejoiced over the Mrs Thatcher's demise, arguing that it would usher in a new era for European integration, but conservatives were cautious. "Sometimes we were very happy to leave her to fight for us," *Le Figaro* mused, "now we will have to go forward unprotected."

The Eastern European press

looked to a Continent without Mrs Thatcher with even more trepidation. The Hungarian socialist daily *Nepszabadsag* said: "Eastern Europe has lost a good man [sic], only Maggie knew where to buy garlic and red pepper in Budapest," and hoped the new prime minister would continue in her vein. The Czechoslovak papers hailed Mrs Thatcher's support

for human rights in Eastern Europe. "Mrs Thatcher's departure will sadden many people in Eastern Europe for whom she has always symbolised their hopes of freedom and prosperity based on a market economy," the daily *Lidove Noviny* said.

China reacted blandly to the resignation, describing the prime minister's role in Sino-

British relations as positive. The foreign ministry said: "We hope that Sino-British relations will be further developed and strengthened on the current basis and we believe that we can work with any of the candidates."

However, the announcement gave the official *People's Daily* the chance to voice its hardest ideological line in recent months. In last year's pro-democracy demonstrations in Peking, students praised Mrs Thatcher as a leader dedicated to defeating communism. The editorial attacked "these hostile Western forces" and called on all members of the Chinese Communist party to "recognise profoundly the new historical inevitability that socialism will replace capitalism."

In Hong Kong officials are anxiously awaiting the next round in the leadership contest. Douglas Hurd, based in Peking from 1954 to 1956, is seen as the best informed candidate on the colony's affairs. "There's no doubt that Hurd would be the favourite for people here," one official said. "Hurd has proven links with China, but Major's links with this part of the world are based on his brief tenure as junior Foreign Office minister." Copies of Mr Hurd's political thriller, *The Eye of the Dragon*, are being snapped up. Written in the 1970s, it is

based on a Chinese plot to overcome the British colony by force.

South Africa, one of Mrs Thatcher's staunchest supporters, seemed little perturbed. *Beeld*, the leading Afrikaans daily said: "While it was of critical importance for the past few years when sat in 10 Downing Street, South Africa's international position since February has improved so much it is no longer of real importance."

In Argentina the press ran the resignation with little reference to the Falklands conflict. The evening paper *Crónica* spoke of Mrs Thatcher's "political megalomania".

© In Dubai Gulf expatriates are crying into their beer at Thatcher's bar mourning the downfall of the Iron Lady (Reuters reports).

As drinkers pondered the end of an era, the manager Sam Younger said: "We hope they [the owners] do not change the name. We threatened to walk out if they called it Heseltine's." Regulars say the bar's menu sounds like a policy paper for Thatcherism — solid fare sometimes difficult to stomach, but good for you in the end. They are wondering what will happen to the Super Monster Thatcher Burger, the Thatcher Party Plan (Food For Special Occasions), and the Chequers Lunch.



Breaking the ice: Gorbachev and Reagan at Reykjavik

Little US concern at successor's aims

WITH her vision, her intellect and her commanding presence, Mrs Thatcher dominated Britain's politics and its relations with the United States for more than a decade. Americans will miss her but there is no reason for concern about the likely direction of British policies after her.

On Thursday, she bowed to a Conservative party revolt and resigned. The swiftness of her fall and the competition to succeed her guarantees some unpredictability.

On the issues that affect America most, however, substantial continuity is assured under any of the contenders — Michael Heseltine, Douglas Hurd or John Major — or even under Neil Kinnock, the Labour leader.

Washington's most urgent concern is the Persian Gulf. Saddam Hussein would be foolhardy to anticipate any weakening of British resolve. Tom King, the defence secretary, sent a powerful signal by announcing the dispatch of 16,000 more troops, doubling the British contingent.

Mr Heseltine once served Mrs Thatcher as defence secretary. Mr Hurd is foreign secretary, and Mr Major

served in that post before becoming chancellor. All are tough-minded Tories.

On the Opposition, Mr Kinnock has steered Labour away from its flirtation with unilateral nuclear disarmament, winning the respect of Washington. Labour has also shed its enthusiasm for nationalisation.

Policy changes are far more likely on the two issues that brought Mrs Thatcher down: Britain's integration into the European Community and the poll tax. While taxation is a purely domestic concern, America can only welcome a turn away from Mrs Thatcher's Little England nationalism, which so divided her from her Tory colleagues.

Convinced that her West European partners were scheming to ensure free-market Britain in a crypto-socialist regulation, she behaved as though Britain were still an economic superpower. That stubbornness threatened to undermine her greatest achievement: convincing Britain's private-sector entrepreneurs that they could no longer live off past glories and must adapt to competitive realities.

Tories' switch brings relief to Bonn

FROM IAN MURRAY IN BONN

AT ABOUT the time that news of Mrs Thatcher's resignation was flashed round the world a messenger in the Bundestag came up to where Hans-Dietrich Genscher was sitting next to Helmut Kohl, the chancellor, and whispered in the foreign minister's ear.

With a broad grin on his face, Herr Genscher turned to the chancellor and gave him the thumbs-up sign. Nobody is saying what the messenger whispered — it may have been simply that hunch was nearly ready — but there is little secret about the fact that the prime minister's departure from the European negotiating table is viewed with particular relief in Bonn.

That is not because she was regarded as obstructionist any longer but because Germany considers that she had succeeded in marginalising Britain to the extent that nobody listened to her arguments any more.

There is no doubt in Bonn that if Britain does not agree to join the other 11 EC members in a currency union, then they will simply create

their own treaty among themselves and leave Britain out. Such leading politicians as Herr Kohl and Herr Genscher have decided to make no comment until a new British leader is chosen. Asked if someone could make a kind of farewell tribute to Mrs Thatcher, an official said: "We would find it rather difficult to do that."

Bonn expects Douglas Hurd to be chosen as Conservative leader, but that is largely because he is the only one of the three candidates known here. He made an excellent impression in EC negotiations, where officials noted that, unlike Sir Geoffrey Howe, he confidently took decisions without referring back to London for advice. As prime minister he is expected to be able to bring Britain back into a leading position inside the community.

Mr Heseltine is little known, but since his challenge to Mrs Thatcher he has received considerable publicity. After his recent speech in Hamburg in which he insisted on Britain remaining closely

linked to economic union and rejected any idea of a "hard ecu", he is regarded as being a considerable improvement on Mrs Thatcher.

John Major is the least known of all, and because he is the architect of the "hard ecu" plan is viewed with the most suspicion. The Bundestag does not like the idea and the government here dutifully accepts that as "the correct assessment."

The Bundestag rules for creating a European central bank and for economic and currency union are the ones that Germany means to persuade the community to accept, confident that the success of the German financial institution will make it the undisputed expert when negotiations get under way.

Mr Major's lack of experience and the fact that he is seen to be Mrs Thatcher's personal choice count against him in Bonn, although officials accept that as the most expert candidate on the economy, he might be the man Britain needs most at this time. Whoever is chosen will

have the difficult task of proving that he is not following in Mrs Thatcher's footsteps in Europe.

Although she won great respect and admiration in Bonn over the years, her statements about German unification caused considerable offence and led to bad feeling against Britain right up to the last round of negotiations on international recognition of a united Germany's sovereignty.

The prime minister's well-publicised comment last November that reunification "is not on the agenda" is still quoted in the chancellery as an example of her shortsightedness. Her view that reunification would take ten to 15 years has been much ridiculed.

There was considerable relief when she sent a warm message of congratulation to Herr Kohl on the electoral success of his Christian Democrats in east Germany and when she praised the resolution on the western Polish frontier, but the overriding impression she has given is of someone who both fears and dislikes Germans.

NUMBER VII: FULL AHEAD — SLOW (OR TAKING THE LOW-LOADER ROAD HOME).

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Hostility not passion 'the key to vicar's relationship'

By PAUL WILKINSON

THE passionate relationship alleged between a country vicar and his curate's wife was actually one of hostility, a Church of England consistency court was told yesterday.

Judith Hughes, counsel for the accused priest, the Rev Thomas Tyler, said that far from there being a passionate relationship with the woman, Susan Whitmore, clear antagonism had built up over the years prior to the allegations being made. "The allegations are inconsistent with that," she said.

Mr Tyler, a father-of-four and vicar of St Peter's at Henfield, West Sussex, for the past 12 years, has denied a charge of conduct unbecoming a clerk in holy orders in that he committed adultery with Mrs Whitmore. He is also accused of adultery with another of his parishioners, Barbara Edwards, a married woman with two children.

When the case opened on Tuesday in a Chichester church hall, the prosecution said that Mr Tyler, aged 50, had begun a two-year affair with Mrs Whitmore, a woman now in her fifties, soon after he took over the parish in 1978. When that relationship allegedly cooled he seduced Mrs Edwards, who had turned to the church for support when her baby died. The court was told that adultery had been committed at the women's homes, the vicarage, and in the vicar's car.

All the evidence is being heard in camera after a ruling

by Judge Quentin Edwards, QC, the chancellor of the Chichester diocese, who is presiding over the hearing. He said that the witnesses could be embarrassed at speaking in public and that the interests of justice might be prejudiced. Only opening and closing statements by counsel and his summing-up would be heard in open court.

Yesterday, in her opening address for the defence, Miss Hughes said that to commit adultery required both inclination and opportunity. "My client will give evidence that he had no inclination towards either of the women."

Mr Tyler's relationship with Mrs Whitmore had been unfriendly. About his relationship with Mrs Edwards, Miss Hughes said: "You will hear he was simply visiting her, fulfilling his role as vicar of the parish, administering pastoral care at a time of tragedy."

Mr Tyler admitted visiting their homes on several occasions and being with Mrs Whitmore at the vicarage. She had also been with him in his car. He would give evidence, however, on the busy nature of the women's homes, and he and his wife would give similar evidence regarding the vicarage.

Miss Hughes continued: "Certain evidence has been given about physical characteristics. You will hear evidence about this from my client." The hearing resumes on Monday.

Cromwell gets a model home

By JOHN YOUNG

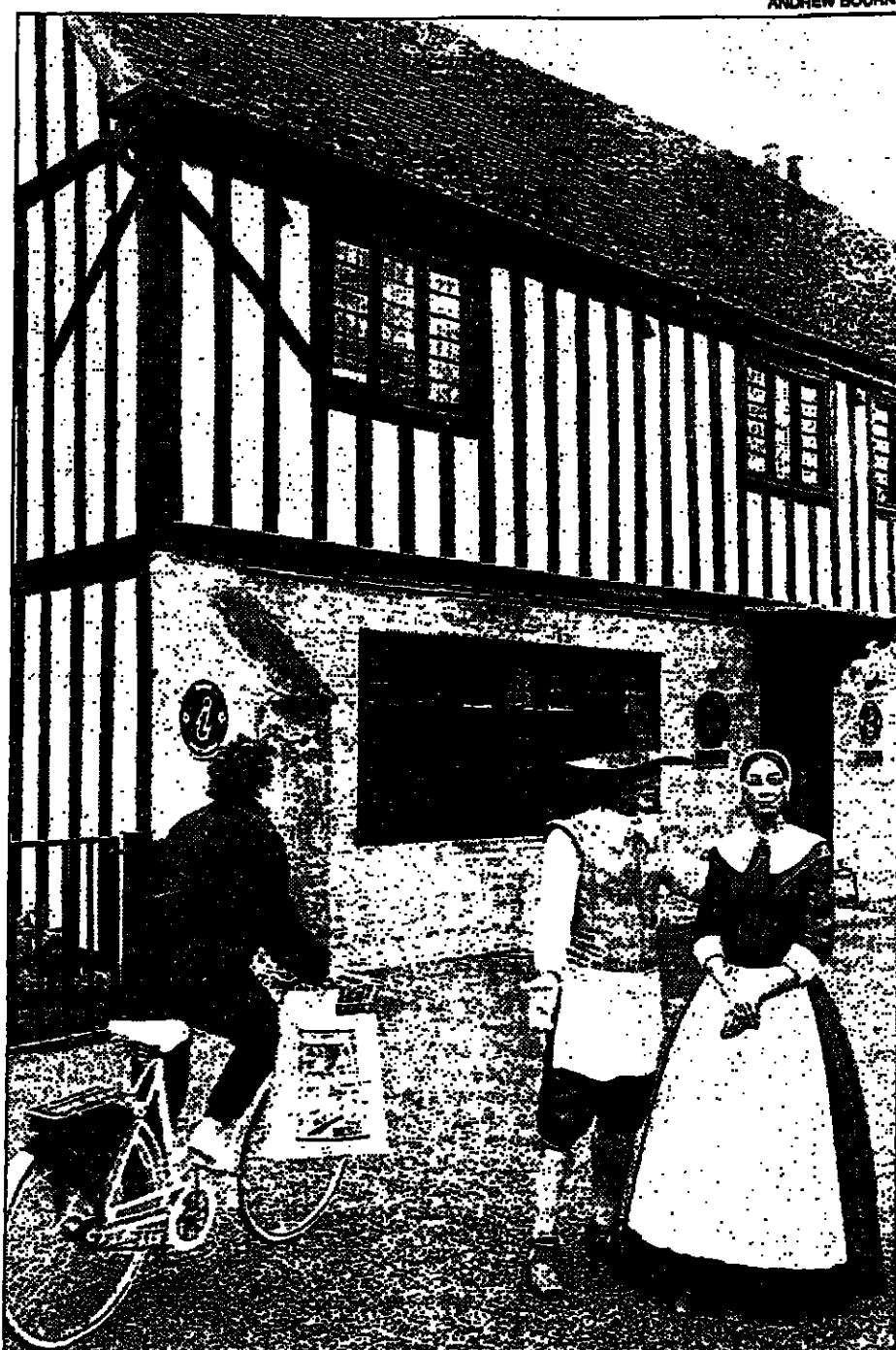
TWO hundred yards from Ely Cathedral, the house where Oliver Cromwell lived for 10 years, including the early part of the Civil War, will be re-opened to the public as a combined information and heritage centre on December 6. With a nice twist of historical irony, the ceremony will be performed by the Duke of Gloucester, whose distant ancestor, Charles I, was executed on the orders of the Great Protector.

In 1636 Cromwell inherited the Cambridgeshire estate from his uncle, Sir Thomas Steward, and with it the responsibility of collecting tithes to pay for the upkeep of the two local parishes. His zeal in defending the rights of the farmers against landowners earned him the name Lord of the Fens, and in 1640 he was elected member of parliament for Cambridge.

The earliest part of the house dates from the 13th century but there have been numerous alterations and additions. For most of this century the house was used as a vicarage. It was bought four years ago by East Cambridgeshire district council, which spent more than £300,000 on repairs and restoration. The centre is a joint venture between the council and History and Heritage Ltd, which specialises in historical re-creations.

The house has been furnished in 17th century style and lifelike figures of Cromwell and his wife are seated in the parlour. There is also an audio-visual film on the life of the Great Protector and his association with the house.

The organisers hope the house will attract tens of thousands of visitors a year paying an admission charge of £1.



Model couple: Oliver Cromwell and his wife Elizabeth stand outside their restored home in Ely. £300,000 has been spent refurbishing the house in 17th-century style

University heads claim win on funding

By JOHN O'LEARY
HIGHER EDUCATION
CORRESPONDENT

VICTORY was claimed by vice-chancellors yesterday in their dispute with the Universities' Funding Council (UFC) over bids for student places for the next four years.

The council decided last month to reject all the universities' bids because too few undercut the council's "guide prices". The decision meant the temporary abandonment of the four-year planning cycle the council had just introduced. The vice-chancellors reacted furiously to the announcement, saying it placed their expansion plans in jeopardy and accusing the funding council of acting irresponsibly. A delegation met the council's senior officials to press them to cut the delay.

Yesterday the council announced that it would make provisional allocations next March for the three years from 1992 to 1995, only a month after the announcement of detailed plans for 1991-92. The council undertook to consult the universities on the provisional numbers and to comment on the planning statements they submitted under the bidding system.

Sir Edward Parkes, chairman of the vice-chancellors' committee, said: "This is very much to be welcomed. It is more important for universities to know what the UFC thinks of their plans in terms of inherent sense and the national picture than to know precisely when different bids will be available."

Ralph Kanter, a non-executive director of the National Bus Company, has been appointed to the board of the government's student loans company.

Haughey makes plea for ancient gold collar

Charles Haughey, the Irish prime minister, yesterday demanded the return of a Bronze Age collar that he claims had been illegally excavated in the Irish Republic and exported, and which is being held at Christie's in London.

Mr Haughey said that the collar, or lunula, which is of sheet-gold and could be worth up to £20,000, had been the subject of enquiries by the Irish authorities since 1975.

Christie's said a Northern Ireland resident, who said he had been offered £12,000 for it by a Dublin museum and wanted to know its value, had brought in the item.

Collecting, page 21

SOS number for EC states

Countries in the European Community will soon use a single emergency number - 112 - to call the police, fire brigade or an ambulance, ministers decided yesterday. The number should be available by the end of 1992, although countries with problems setting it up will have until the end of 1996 to introduce it.

The measure is aimed mainly at tourists, who have, at present, to look up the emergency number in the country they are visiting before making an emergency call.

Stance on Gatt

First proposals from the European Commission for the EC position in Gatt negotiations are expected to be sent to the council of ministers soon. John Gummer, minister of agriculture, told the Commons yesterday. He said that it was possible the proposals would be formulated by the end of the year when there might be further development of EC set-aside and extensification schemes.

Pacifist jailed

A pacifist who wanted to pay a tax bill in bread instead of money was jailed yesterday for 28 days by Newcastle upon Tyne county court. Nigel Wild, aged 33, of Brighton Grove, Newcastle, has owed £155 in tax since 1985. Last month, he offered to pay with bread "on a point of principle" because part of the £155 would be used for military purposes, and was given 28 days to pay or face jail.

Duke's case

Mr Justice Harman yesterday reserved judgment until Monday morning in the High Court case in which the Duke of Westminster is trying to prevent Westminster city council offering for sale flats in Pimlico on land leased to the council by a previous duke for use by working-class occupants. Gavin Lightman, QC, for the duke, had said he wanted low-rent accommodation to remain available.

Experts doubtful on tagging tests

By QUENTIN COWDRY, HOME AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

PROSECUTORS, magistrates and probation officers are sceptical about "tagging" as a way of reducing custodial remands, according to a Home Office evaluation of the electronic monitoring experiment conducted last year.

The report, published yesterday, says that criminal justice experts believe that if tagging has a future it lies in providing the courts with an extra bail condition or in being linked to a court sentence such as a curfew order.

During the experiment, defendants could only be tagged as a strict alternative to a custodial remand, a requirement that sharply reduced the pool of defendants who could be fitted with the ankle transmitters while they awaited trials. Fifty people

were tagged during the seven-month experiment conducted at three magistrates' courts, about a third of the number ministers had hoped for. Of those, 28 broke their bail terms, some for committing new offences.

John Patten, Home Office minister of state, declined to comment on the low number of tagged defendants, instead highlighting how quickly and accurately the technology had registered breaches of bail.

He said: "Not every offender will be suitable for monitoring. But as an additional tool for the courts it will offer many people who might otherwise be sent to prison the opportunity to serve their sentence in the community." Most of those tagged found it a welcome alternative, he said.

World chess decider may come on Christmas Eve

By RAYMOND KEENE
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

PLAY resumes today in Lyons, France, in the World Chess Championship, with a strong possibility that the deciding game between the two Soviet grandmasters and old rivals Gary Kasparov and Anatoly Karpov, could be played on Christmas Eve.

The score after 12 matches in New York stands at six points each, and Karpov, the challenger, will resume with the advantage of the white pieces when play starts up again for the record \$3 million (£1.54m) prize purse, five-eighths of which goes to the first player to score 12½ points out of a maximum 24.

The rivals will play on Saturdays, Mondays and Wednesdays, but an anarchistic ruling allows each to take two days off with no more than a few hours' warning. Since the Soviet people do not attach the same importance to Christmas as in the West, the champions have decided to play throughout the festive season if no positive result has been reached.

Lyons has been chosen as the venue for the second half of the tournament partly because France has a rich chess tradition, with two former Soviet world champions, Alexander Alekhine and Boris Spassky, making Paris their home.

One other reason is because Michel Noir, mayor of Lyons, is a chess fanatic. Lyons, however, did not get the match without almost falling foul of the political rivalry between the World Chess Federation, led by its president, Florencio Campomanes, and the top players' trade union, the Grandmaster Association, of which Kasparov was president until his recent resignation.



Karpov: resumes with advantage of white



Kasparov: has to improve in second half

At the World Chess Federation annual congress at Puerto Rico in 1989, the federation decided, without consulting the players, to reject a bid from New Zealand and decreed that the match would be held exclusively in Lyons. Kasparov, Karpov and the leading challengers, including Jon Speelman of Britain, were unhappy, and the Grandmaster Association demanded a voice in deciding the location of the championship. After lengthy negotiation the match was shared between Lyons and New York.

The even score from the New York leg belies the ferocious chessboard duel. Both players have made devastating sacrifices and delivered fierce knock-out blows in a rewriting of the chess theory books.

Kasparov has minted a new idea of "sacrifice", teetering on the abyss of what seemed certain defeat only to recover brilliantly. But interspersed with these brilliant ideas have come some terrible errors. Among them was his appalling queen move 27... Qc5 in game seven, which at once wrecked his position.

This move was so bad that it will go down in any future history of blunders by top players.

Kasparov in New York took the art of defence to new heights, introducing stinging and lethal counter-attacks. He has also missed chances, however, and though starting as the underdog he is widely perceived to be unlucky not to be leading.

The New York leg has confounded predictions that Kasparov would win this fifth clash of the titans in five years by a large margin. There is a substantial rating difference between the two, which may have side-tracked the experts, but match play is very different from tournaments against a broad field of opponents.

Since their fourth match in 1987, Kasparov has smashed through Fischer's international rating record of 2,785 with a new high of 2,800. Karpov's rating of 2,730 is impressive, but way behind. Still, if Kasparov does not pull himself together in the second half and banish the blunders which bedevilled his play from game 6 in New York, the chess world may well have a new champion by Christmas.

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هكذا انزل

ter may
as Eve

A black and white photograph of a man with a long, dark beard and hair. He is wearing a light-colored tunic with a dark, patterned sash or scarf draped over his shoulders. He is holding a long, thin staff or pole diagonally across his body. The background is dark and textured.

the quail
and the
wild turkey,
the giant
cactus and
the palo
verdes, they
all miss me.
I miss them,
too. I want
to go back
to them."

Gerónimo
Chiricahua Apache

TWA
To the State of Arizona.

Boxer accepts £50,000 over action for false imprisonment

By DAVID YOUNG

THE former world light-middle-weight boxing champion, Maurice Hope, accepted £50,000 agreed High Court damages from the Metropolitan Police yesterday in settlement of his action against the force for alleged false imprisonment and malicious prosecution.

The 38-year-old boxer, who manages Antigua's national team and was made a MBE in recognition of his services to the sport, said that the damages and about £20,000 in costs would be invested to help others who found themselves in a similar predicament.

His counsel, Robert Englehart, QC, told the hearing before Mr Justice French that Mr Hope was charged with an offence under the Misuse of Drugs Act after he was arrested in October 1988 and accused of smoking cannabis and eating packets of crisps in his car. The Scotland Yard press bureau was told of his arrest and details appeared in newspapers in

Court bans harassment findings

By QUENTIN COWDRY
HOME AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

THE Greater Manchester Police Authority was banned by the High Court yesterday from disclosing details of the findings of an independent investigation into allegations that a student had been severely harassed by police.

Mr Justice Macpherson said the Police Complaints Authority, which supervised the enquiry, was entitled to insist that a letter it sent to the student, stating its conclusions, was confidential. The court had been told that the police watchdog's work could be undermined if its reports were published without complainants' consent.

The letter had been sent to Sarah Hollis, who was among demonstrators in 1985 when Sir Leon Brittan, then home secretary, visited Manchester university. A copy was mistakenly sent to councillors in Manchester.

Britain and abroad. In June 1989, however, the Crown offered no evidence when Mr Hope appeared at the Inner London Crown Court, and the judge said that he could leave "without any stain on his character".

In August he issued proceedings claiming damages, including aggravated and exemplary damages, for false imprisonment and malicious prosecution. The Metropolitan commissioner denied his claims. The action was settled yesterday without prejudice to the issue of liability.

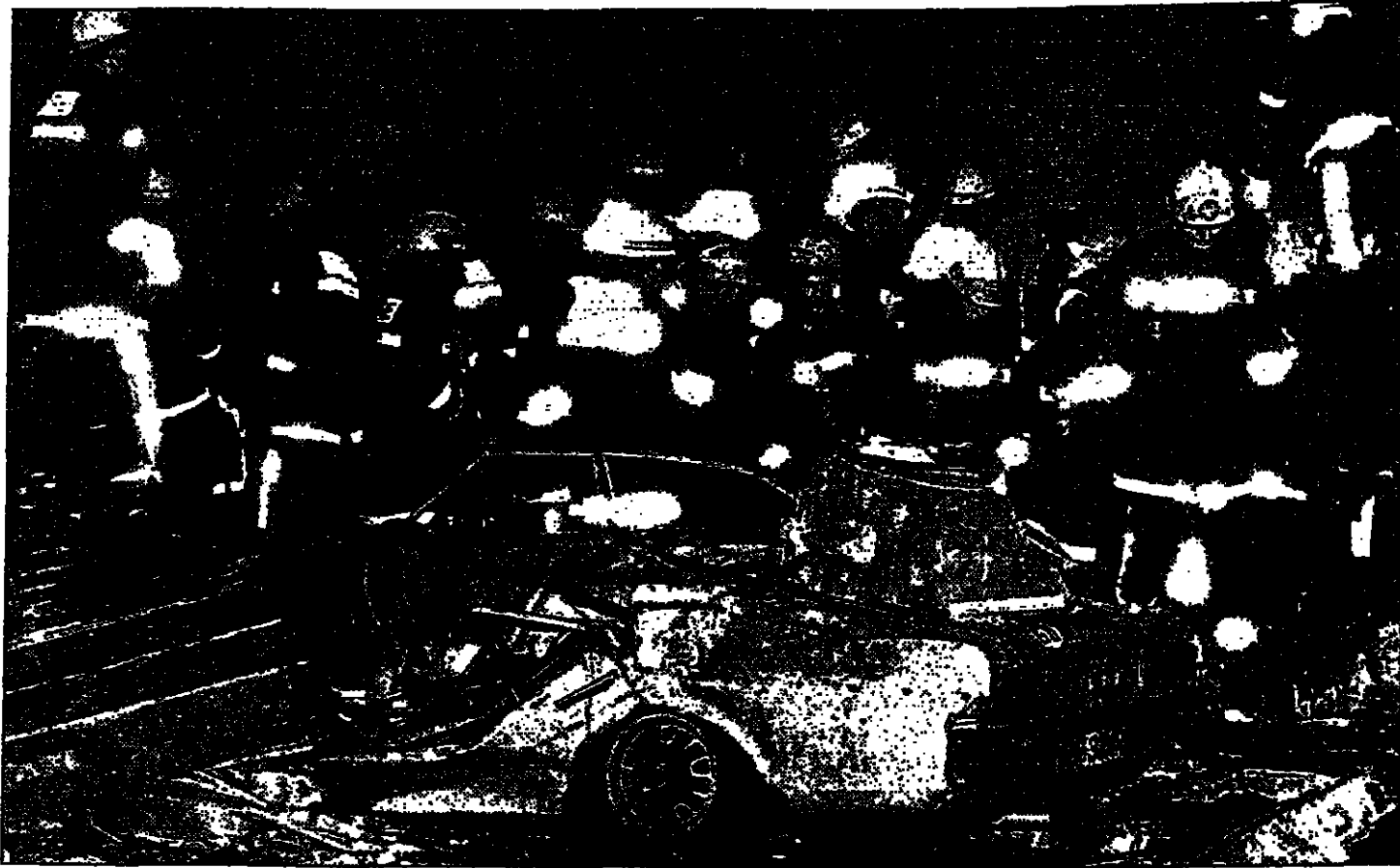
Mr Englehart said that Mr Hope had maintained from the outset that he had never smoked cannabis or any other illegal substance, and would never do so. The allegations had caused him and his family particular hurt and embarrassment. He was saddened by the affair because he respected the police.

Afterwards, Mr Hope said he believed that his arrest had been racially motivated. He was "pleased and not pleased" with the settlement. "The money helps but it is not the main priority here. I like to think of the youngsters coming up in society - if it happened to Maurice Hope, how about them?"

Damages totalling £233,054 were awarded against the Metropolitan Police in the High Court last year, compared with £104,336 in 1988, not including out-of-court settlements.



Hope believes arrest was racially motivated



Firemen searching the rubble early yesterday after an explosion in a derelict house in Bayswater, central London, killed one man, injured two others and wrecked ten cars. Police, who found four petrol cans near by,

believe the blast was caused deliberately. The dead man, who was found by thermal imaging equipment, has not yet been identified. Andrew Camp, of Northwood, northwest London, was seriously injured and Michael

Fung, of St Albans, Hertfordshire, slightly hurt. They are thought to have been trapped in a car. Firemen believe squatters may have been living in the house. The blast also damaged a block of flats next door.

BSkyB opts for Sky staff at top

By MELINDA WITTSTOCK
MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH Sky Broadcasting unveiled a new management team yesterday composed of just three people from BSB and 11 from Sky.

The merged group has chosen not to replace Ian Clubb, the BSB deputy chief executive who resigned as joint deputy managing director of BSkyB.

Sky's Gary Davey has been appointed the sole deputy managing director as well as director of programmes.

The only BSB senior managers that remain are Peter Clarke, as company secretary, Jennifer Haigh, as director of personnel, and Ellis Griffiths, as director of engineering.

The group has just received permission from the Independent Broadcasting Authority to broadcast a mixed Sky-BSB service on the BSB Marco Polo satellite for an indefinite period starting on December 3.

Fishermen fear the hidden menace of 'submarine alley'

By KERRY GILL

THE huge dark shape of a submarine on the grey waters of the Firth of Clyde has been an awesome, if familiar, sight for decades. It is their menacing underwater presence, however, that is the constant fear of local fishermen.

The government yesterday admitted that a Royal Navy submarine was responsible for dragging a fishing boat to the seabed with the loss of four lives. It was a bitter irony that James Russell, skipper of the stricken fishing vessel Antares, spent much of his time trying to sort out the problem of submarines jostling for space with vulnerable fishing boats off the west coast of Scotland.

Mr Russell, in common with many other fishermen, had feared a fatal collision between a submarine and a boat. Like many others, he believed that submarines were responsible for other fishermen's deaths in the so-called "submarine alley", the waters

stretching from the southern Irish Sea to the northwest of Scotland.

In the early hours of Thursday the fishermen's fears were proved correct. The Antares, its gear snagged by HMS Trenchant, a hunter killer submarine based at Faslane, sank within seconds, drowning Mr Russell and his three crewmen.

Over the past ten years, there have been a number of incidents in which fishing vessels have sunk with loss of life. In many, submarines were suspected of being responsible. Not for nothing has Scotland's west coast been described as another "Bermuda triangle".

William Wareham, aged 54, a Campbelltown skipper and member of the Scottish Fishermen's Organisation, said yesterday: "We have been working under this threat for years. With so many boats fishing in the Clyde, it was bound to happen some time. We have been trying to tell the government that, but it has been ignored.

Lives are being lost. It is a tragedy that could be avoided. We have to have a government enquiry. So many boats have been lost without trace, and it will happen again."

With bigger and more powerful fishing vessels being built, fishing tackle is stronger. Snagged fishing wires no longer snap, and, fishermen claim, this leads to boats being lost within seconds.

The Celtic League, based in the Isle of Man, has kept records of boats lost in mysterious circumstances, many of them suddenly disappearing in calm waters where submarines are known to operate. It has logged vessels lost in "submarine alley" leading to more than 30 fatalities.

In 1982, the trawler Sharelga was suddenly dragged backwards at speed for ten miles. She capsized, but her five crew were saved by other vessels. The Ministry of Defence paid out £200,000 for the loss of the Sharelga.

Aids-like virus 'may cause arthritis'

By NIGEL HAWKES
SCIENCE EDITOR

AN Aids-like virus may be the cause of some types of rheumatoid arthritis and similar conditions thought to be caused by faults in the body's immune system.

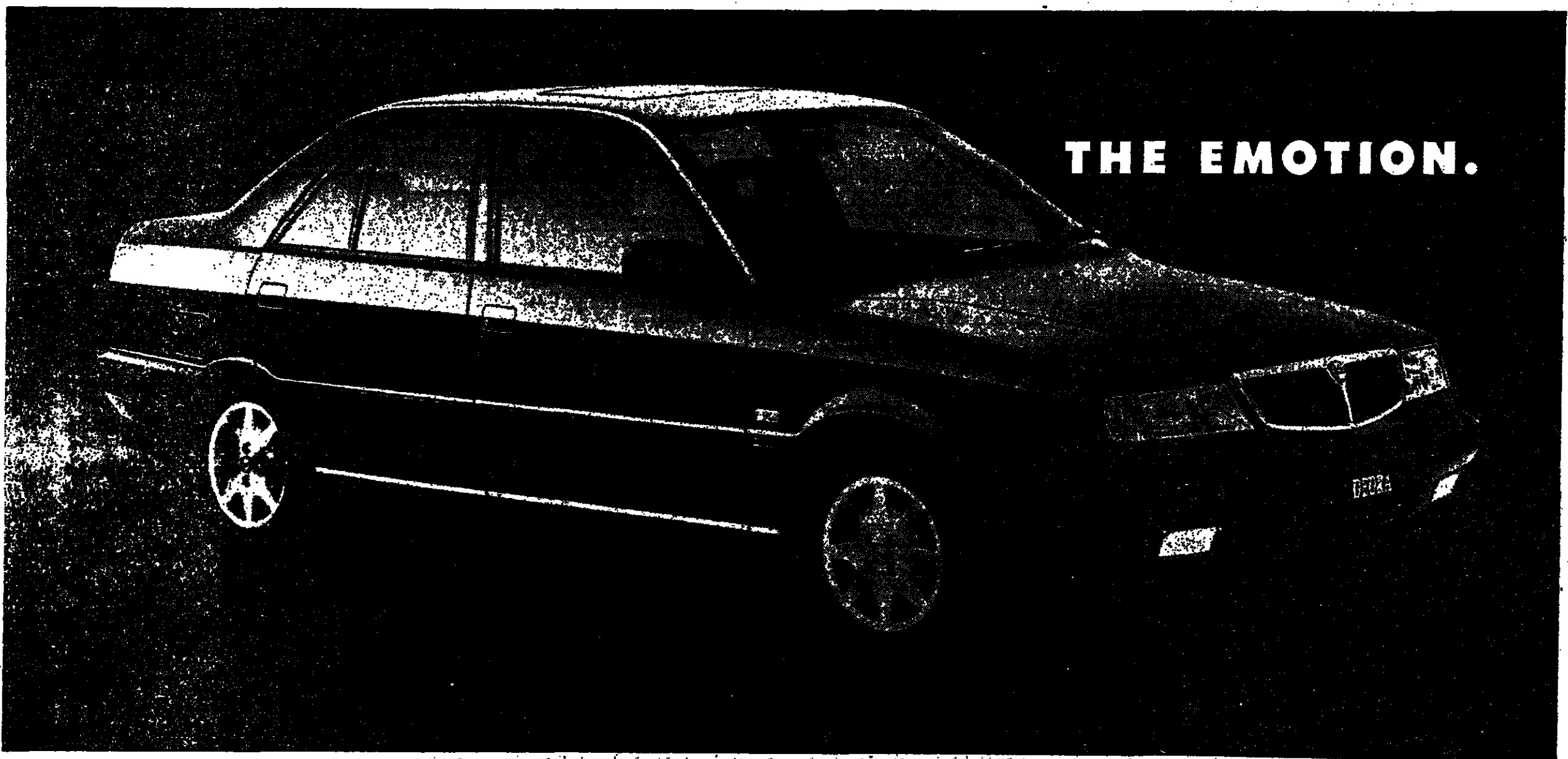
Robert Garry, of Tulane university medical school, Louisiana, reports in *Science* the discovery of a retrovirus in patients with Sjogren's syndrome, in which the eyes and mouth become very dry. It is often found in conjunction with rheumatoid arthritis and lupus erythematosus, a disease of the connective tissue. His results suggest that this retrovirus may be the reason for all these conditions, believed to be caused by the body's immune system attacking its own tissues. The HIV virus also damages the immune system, and patients with the three conditions studied by Dr Garry often show positive when their blood is tested for Aids, though they are not infected.

He found particles similar to those of the HIV virus in lip tissues taken from six patients suffering from Sjogren's syndrome. He believes he has found a new retrovirus, a type of infectious agent which copies itself by a process running in the reverse direction to normal viruses. The other two human retroviruses so far found are HIV and an agent causing a form of leukaemia. If Dr Garry can identify the retrovirus structure, work could begin on finding a vaccine to counter it.

● A baby's risk of contracting a hereditary cancer has for the first time been assessed, while it was still in the womb. The test was negative and the mother continued with the pregnancy.

The test, by Joy Delahanty at the Galton laboratory of University College London, was made possible by the identification of the genes causing a form of colon cancer. People carrying those genes are virtually certain to develop a cancer that could kill them in middle age. The condition is known as familial polyposis. Carriers form hundreds or thousands of tiny polyps in the colon or rectum.

Most are benign, but it is virtually certain at least one will develop into a tumour by the age of 40. The father of the woman tested by Dr Delahanty had died of bowel cancer at the age of 38 and she had her colon removed in her late teens.



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1600 cc 1800 cc 2000 cc

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DEDRA. THE NEW LANCIA



Iraq shows its confidence by lifting curfew in Kuwait

FROM NICHOLAS BRESTON IN BAGHDAD

THE Iraqi government has lifted the curfew in Kuwait amid increasing signs of confidence here that the anti-Iraq coalition has been weakened.

The resignation of Mrs Thatcher has contributed to a growing belief in Baghdad that its hostage strategy will prevail and will discourage military action by the West until climatic conditions become unsuitable next year.

The curfew was lifted yesterday for the first time since the invasion of Kuwait on August 2, according to the Iraqi news agency. The decision was taken, it said, "to confirm the return of normal life to the governorate".

Baghdad is convinced that the change of leadership in Britain will be fatal to President Bush's military option in the Gulf. "Mrs Thatcher's resignation is a terrible setback for Mr Bush," a senior Iraqi official said yesterday. "Without her support, he will find it very difficult to launch an aggression against Iraq."

Baghdad believes that it was Mrs Thatcher's intervention at her meeting with President Bush in Aspen, Colorado, just after the Iraqi invasion, that convinced the president he should use military force.

"She was tough and determined and gave Mr Bush the strength he needed," the Iraqi source said. "No one can replace her in the same way."

There is a strong sense that the close alliance with America, and the upholding of the special relationship which Mrs Thatcher fostered with Washington, will subside because the candidates for the Conservative leadership are seen as supporting closer co-operation with Europe.

"We know that the new prime minister will be entirely occupied with domestic issues like the poll tax and the country's economic problems, not to mention Europe," said the Iraqi, who like many high-ranking members of the government has lived and worked in London. "He will not have any time to worry about the Gulf."

Iraqi officials and members of the public in general also applauded Mrs Thatcher's fall, many of them persuaded that her convictions represented much of the driving force behind the threat of war.

British officials, while emphasising that policy towards Iraq was unlikely to alter under a new leader, predicted that the prospects for the hostages in Iraq would probably improve because Baghdad was likely to attempt to woo the new government.

Britons trapped in Baghdad gave a collective sigh of relief at the resignation and held out hopes that the next prime minister will be less belligerent when it comes to Britain's policy in the Gulf.

Several dozen expatriates who have sought sanctuary in the British embassy compound said in a joint statement: "The consensus of opinion is that, even though we all come from different political persuasions and some of us are sad to see her go after such a long and largely successful period of time, we feel that this will greatly enhance our position for early release."

"Mrs Thatcher has probably been the most hawkish of all Western politicians and the policies of Iraq towards us have been directly linked to her comments and attitude. Now that she has gone we can all feel a lot easier."

One British hostage, Julian McCullough, aged 42, added that her attitude made her appear in Iraq as the main aggressor, and that whenever she opened her mouth the Iraqis "tightened the screws".

● **Kuwait round-up:** Iraqi forces have rounded up five more British men who had been hiding in Kuwait, the Foreign Office announced yesterday (Michael Knappe writes).

The five were taken to the Meridien Hotel in Kuwait, while five other Britons detained early on Wednesday and held at the Regency Palace Hotel in the city were transferred to the Mansour Melia Hotel in Baghdad.

Three British men gained their freedom in a predominantly Swiss group of more than 30 who arrived in Zurich on Thursday, while 22 others, freed as a result of the efforts of Jean Marie Le Pen, the right-wing French politician, arrived home yesterday.

One of them, John Withers of High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire, said he believed the general view of the hostages was: "If they are going to hit him, the sooner the better."

US force runs low on spares

Washington — Pentagon planners are seriously concerned about the shortage of spare parts for American Gulf forces, particularly aircraft (Peter Stothard writes).

According to a briefing paper for Richard Cheney, the defence secretary, the US air force is on the way to becoming a "hollow force" because of the cannibalisation of spare parts to keep Operation Desert Shield airborne.

According to one analysis, 24 hours of maintenance is needed to keep an Apache helicopter active for one hour — and even then it is doubtful if its night-firing devices will work in air full of fine sand.

Aquino refusal

Manila — President Aquino turned down a request by Yehia Fahd al-Sumit, a special envoy of Sheikh Jaber Ahmed al-Sabah, the emir of Kuwait, to send troops to the Gulf, a senior Philippine official said. But, although Mr Aquino refused military aid, she promised to send a medical team to the Gulf. (Reuters)

Swedish mission

Stockholm — A former Swedish prime minister, Thorbjörn Fälldin, said he would fly to Baghdad to try to win the release of Swedish hostages. Mr Fälldin, who headed non-socialist administrations between 1976 and 1982, met Sten Andersson, the foreign minister, before making his announcement.

Liberty for 180

Baghdad — About 180 Germans held by Iraq since the invasion of Kuwait will leave for home on Sunday or Monday, according to diplomatic sources here. Most of the Germans held as human shields on strategic sites had been brought to Baghdad.

Israel intervenes in Christian dispute

FROM ASSOCIATED PRESS IN JERUSALEM

ISRAEL said yesterday it would repair the leaky roof over Christ's reputed birthplace because feuding Christian groups cannot agree who is responsible for the upkeep.

Repairs at the Church of the Nativity in the occupied West Bank town of Bethlehem will begin in a few days and should be completed by Christmas, Shmuel Hamburger, a military government official, said.

"The roof is in such bad shape that the last time we had rain, two weeks ago, it was pouring inside the church," Mr Hamburger added. There were gaping holes in the wood-and-tar roof. Last Christmas buckets for rainwater were set out inside the basilica.

The dispute stems from rivalry between Christian groups over custody of the holy sites. Rights of worship and maintenance are spelled out in detail in the so-called Status Quo, a set of rules dating back to the 1850s.

However, the roof of the Church of the Nativity is not mentioned in the Status Quo. In the past, the ruling authorities — from the Ottomans to

the British, the Jordanians and finally the Israelis — fixed the roof periodically to prevent squabbles.

But this year the Greek Orthodox Church insisted on fixing the roof, saying it traditionally cleaned the roof and therefore should be allowed to do the repairs. The Armenian and Roman Catholic churches protested, saying the roof should be fixed by all three groups or not at all.

The Israelis stepped in several months ago with an offer to fix the roof, but the Armenians and Roman Catholics asked that repairs be postponed.

The Greek Orthodox Church still appears insistent that it should have custody of the roof, but Mr Hamburger said Israel had a right to carry out the repairs.

The Church of the Nativity, which lines Bethlehem's Manger Square, was built by Constantine in AD 330. Believed to be the oldest Christian church in continuous use, it was erected over a grotto believed to be the site where Christ was born.



Fire power: down in a desert bunker President Bush squints through the sights of a 50-calibre machinegun while bolstering the morale of US troops stationed in Saudi Arabia. Before flying on to Geneva for his controversial meeting with President Assad of Syria, the president flew from the desert to a red-carpet welcome in Cairo.

During talks with President Mubarak, he repeated the United States and Egypt's "common commitment of working closely together to ensure we succeed". The US and Egyptian relationship was "extremely close", he said, "and is a true force for

peace in the region". President Mubarak in turn said that "the Iraqi invasion must be reversed and Kuwait must be liberated. No tactics will divert us from our objectives, no active defiance will weaken our resolve or shake our determination. To both of us it is a matter of principle and moral commitment" (Sarah Gauthier writes).

Mr Bush said he felt confident of getting the United Nations Security Council's approval to use force against President Saddam Hussein, should Iraq refuse to withdraw — a main purpose for his trip. "We are tired of the status quo and so is the rest of the world," he said. Although he preferred

a peaceful solution through the economic sanctions imposed against Iraq, Mr Bush said the military presence in the Gulf must be a "credible alternative". Either way he said he had the authority to "do what we have to do".

During their meeting the two leaders discussed what security measures could be implemented, once Iraq had withdrawn, to protect the region against similar aggression and the potential use of weapons of mass destruction. Mr Mubarak mentioned his hope that at some point the Palestinian-Israeli situation would be addressed. Although Mr Bush expressed his wish to solve this long-

standing problem, he underlined that the Gulf confrontation and the conflict between Israel and the Palestinians were not connected.

Egypt has remained the United States' staunchest Arab ally in the Gulf. President Mubarak has led the Arab world in its condemnation of President Saddam's invasion of Kuwait. He was the first Arab leader, along with King Hassan of Morocco, to send troops in defence of Saudi Arabia; there are 20,000 men there now and approximately 15,000 more are expected.

UN meeting, page 1

Saddam's Maginot line 'can be broken'

By MICHAEL EVANS
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

ALLIED commanders are confident they can breach the huge "Maginot line" of sand barriers, anti-tank ditches and minefields the Iraqis have built across southern Kuwait, after a study of the defences, senior British military sources said yesterday.

British engineers built a small-scale version of the "obstacle belt" at a secret location in this country and worked out how to overcome the defences. The Americans did the same. "We know the exact depth of the minefields," one source said.

The assessment played a part in the decision by the US and Britain to send more troops to Saudi Arabia. It was realised that more infantry would be needed to support the armour once the Iraqi defences had been breached.

One military source said: "With the right balance of infantry and armour, you can attack on a broad front. The more infantry you have to counter superior force levels, the fewer the casualties."

The increase in allied forces has meant a revision of casualty estimates to 10,000 deaths and 20,000 injured.



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Najibullah vows to make any sacrifice for an Afghan peace



Najibullah: "Contrary to some claims, I have a big heart"

PRESIDENT Najibullah of Afghanistan, who is in Geneva to woo the opponents of his besieged government in Kabul, said yesterday that he would agree to the setting up of a neutral transitional authority with wide executive powers to supervise free elections in the country to end eleven years of internal war.

In an interview, he said that there was no personal sacrifice he would not contemplate if it had a good chance of resolving the conflict peacefully. "Contrary to some people's claims, I have a big heart. Our opponents have a duty to try to discover for themselves," he said.

His unexpected visit to Europe comes in the wake of talks in Moscow last week between James Baker, the US Secretary of State, and Eduard Shevardnadze, his

Soviet counterpart, who are said to desire a negotiated end to the Afghan war. But Dr Najibullah was keen to play down the suggestion of a link between the two events.

"The policies of the Afghan government have, by necessity, to reflect the new age of co-operation between the major powers," he said. "But our present talks with prominent Afghans are the culmination of many years' efforts. War does not immediately evaporate when you pour it over fire."

The Afghan president refused to disclose the identities of his negotiating partners, saying it was at their request. But he was pleased with the trend of the talks.

He was reluctant to describe the proposed transitional authority as a government. "Its name is not important. I would prefer to call it

The Afghan president, who is in Geneva to persuade his Mujahidin foes to join him in a transitional government before holding free elections, talks to Hazhir Teimourian

a transitional organ of power that would have direct control over all our armed forces as well as those of our opponents. We are willing to give over to it the control of key ministries, such as the defence and interior ministries. What I am proposing now is that all of us Afghans sit together round a table to determine the extent of that transitional organ's powers. You can call it what you like."

Dr Najibullah, it appeared, does not seriously believe that the more militant fundamentalists among the Pakistan-based Mujahidin

guerrillas, who have been engaged in clashes with their moderate allies, might agree to participate in his proposed transitional government, but thought the time might be ripe for the moderate parties in the guerrilla alliance to declare a formal break with the militants.

This interpretation was supported by Ahmad Gailani, leader of the National Islamic Front of Afghanistan, who is one of the partners Dr Najibullah is wooing. Mr Gailani, who is in London, said that Dr Najibullah hoped that the first step towards a reconcili-

ation would be taken by Zahir Shah, the former king, who has lived in exile in Rome since his overthrow in a coup in 1973. "Najib hopes that the king might place himself at the head of a transitional government in Kabul and be joined by some of us among the Mujahidin."

Mr Gailani denied recent reports that he had had a meeting with Dr Najibullah during the president's current European visit. Mr Gailani said he, too, preferred a peaceful end to the conflict. Asked whether he could give a guarantee that a transitional government in Kabul would not be overrun by the extremists among the Mujahidin, Mr Gailani said that he could not do so. He believed, however, that the danger of the extremists had been exaggerated. "You would find that

their representatives in any transitional or permanent government would be small, and they would not be allowed to remain as independent militias. I can give the guarantee that there will be no revenge killings. Only criminals will be punished, whether from the ranks of the government or from among the Mujahidin."

In this respect, he and Dr Najibullah appeared to be in agreement. "The extremists would quickly isolate themselves from our people," said the Afghan president. "All we are asking is that their arms supplies from such countries as Pakistan be cut off." In return for an end to Pakistan, American and Saudi Arabian arms supplies to the Mujahidin, Dr Najibullah would agree to a halt in the supply of Soviet weapons to his troops.

Opinion swings Walesa's way as Poland goes to the polls

FROM ROGER BOYES IN WARSAW

LECH Walesa, the Solidarity leader, and Tadeusz Mazowiecki, Poland's prime minister, emerged yesterday as clear favourites in tomorrow's presidential election. Support for the other strong candidate, Stanislaw Tyminski, the Polish-Canadian businessman, seemed to be dwindling.

The last opinion poll before the election gives Mr Walesa 38 per cent of the vote, Mr Mazowiecki 23 per cent and Mr Tyminski 17 per cent. Wlodzimierz Cimoszewicz, the former communist candidate, lags behind with just 6 per cent. Roman Bartoszcze, the Peasant party's leader, has 5 per cent, and Leszek Moczulski, head of the ultra-nationalist Confederation for an Independent Poland, 2 per cent. The support for Mr Tyminski, is expected to decline even more, mainly to the benefit of Mr Walesa. However, there are unknown factors. At least 9 per cent of respondents in various polls declared themselves undecided, and a substantial number of Poles abroad are voting.

All but the most optimistic arithmetic suggests that Mr Walesa will fall short of the 50 per cent he needs to win in the first round. The second round, a run-off

between the two leading candidates, will be held a fortnight later. Campaigning was forbidden from noon yesterday, but politicians continued to give off-the-record briefings for favoured journalists, thus feeding the rumour mill. Public demonstrations and conferences are also barred until the polls close at 8pm tomorrow.

The election has been correctly described as the first Western-style contest in the post-communist era, a battle of personalities and style rather than the wholesale rejection of totalitarian rule. But there is a crucial difference. In more established democracies, voters choose a leader with clearly defined responsibilities and constitutionally limited powers.

In Poland, the powers of the presidency were tailored for President Jaruzelski at a time when it seemed important to reassure Moscow of Warsaw's ultimate loyalty to the Soviet alliance.

Those times have passed, but the powers remain. The president can declare martial law or a state of emergency. He nominates the prime minister and formally proposes his recall. He appoints the commander-in-chief and is ex officio supreme commander of the armed forces. He can issue decrees, although whether Mr Walesa could rule in this way, as he has threatened, is unclear. He also guides foreign policy.

These powers derive from amendments to the 1952 constitution, but there are constraints too. For example, parliament can try to remove him if he proves to be mentally unstable. But the balance between the president and parliament can be easily swung in the president's favour. General Jaruzelski, conscious of his very tentative position, rarely made use of the powers and vetoed only one piece of legislation.

The fear of Polish parliamentarians is that Mr Walesa would sap the country's fledgling parliamentary democracy by making frequent use of these powers. The Polish parliament is already something of a lame duck since new elections have been set for next spring. An assertive president could well fill the vacuum.

Mr Walesa, in his election programme, promises that communists will be weeded out of the state administration and that members of past communist governments could face trial. This is disquieting especially for those who work in the foreign ministry or the armed forces, which fall under the presidential domain.

Constitutional experts have been working on a new constitution shaping an entirely different kind of presidency which should be ready by next May 3. Poles voting on Sunday thus have little idea of the powers that their newly elected president will enjoy after that date. The voting is, thus, in many ways, a leap in the dark.

Poles in exile, page 18



Victory salute: two boys show their allegiance to Lech Walesa as they collect a poster from his campaign headquarters in Warsaw on the eve of Poland's presidential election. Support for the Solidarity leader is increasing according to opinion polls

Bishops denounce sins of Madrid

FROM HARRY DEBELIUS IN MADRID

CHURCH-state relations in Spain appeared yesterday to be at their lowest ebb since the Socialists came to power nearly nine years ago, after bishops denounced widespread "moral degradation" and corruption and put much of the blame on the government.

In a document which took nearly two years to prepare, the Roman Catholic Episcopal Council stepped into the political arena, condemning political turncoats, influence-peddling, "grave and scandalous" corruption, misuse of public funds, discrimination on ideological grounds, nepotism, the re-zoning of lands "to carry out abusive and fraudulent deals", speculation in the housing market, and a long list of other sins.

It was the strongest call to order issued by the hierarchy in nearly a decade and a half of democracy, and it came after a warning from the pulpit earlier in the week by Cardinal Angel Suñer, the council president. A senior administration official called it a direct attack on the government.

The bishops accused authorities of "manipulating the truth by means of official ideological propaganda and information of an anti-religious nature, silencing or ridiculing Catholic viewpoints".

Referring to the current "sexual disorder", presumably fomented by such actions as the government's big advertising campaign to promote the use of contraceptives, the churchmen lamented disturbing signs of "the frivolous trivialisation of human sexuality", such as marital infidelity and the

failure of public figures to set an example. One such figure who came to mind immediately among readers of the document was Alfonso Guerra, the deputy prime minister, who is frequently accompanied at public functions by an unmarried woman friend rather than by his wife. The hierarchy scorned "the extension of extra-marital relations, the generalisation of pre-marital relations and the demand for the legitimisation of homosexual relations".

Claiming that "Spain has become an immense casino", the bishops condemned the materialistic culture, as evidenced by the "disproportionate exaltation of money" and of "men and women whose only claim to fame seems to be their meteoric success in the realm of wealth and luxury".



Guerra: accompanied by an unmarried woman

EC strengthens links with US and Canada

FROM MICHAEL BINYON IN BRUSSELS

SETTING aside recent arguments over trade, the European Community yesterday released the text of two wide-ranging declarations putting their relations with the United States and Canada for the first time on a quasi-treaty footing. The documents provide for regular summit meetings and top-level ministerial consultations.

Giulio Andreotti, the Italian prime minister and current president of the European Council, and Brian Mulroney, the Canadian prime minister, signed the EC-Canada declaration in Rome yesterday. The EC-United States statement has not yet been formally signed by either side.

The signing ceremony was to have been in Washington two weeks ago during the talks between President Bush and Signor Andreotti and Jacques Delors, president of the European Commission. But arguments over the wording of their security relations and American insistence on inserting a clause on the current world trade talks held up signature.

The declaration sets out a framework for political, economic, scientific and cultural co-operation. It outlines common goals, such as the support of democracy and human rights, the promotion of market principles, support for Eastern Europe and the rejection of protectionism.

The document also promises regular dialogue on all areas of trade, but makes no reference to the current negotiations under the General Agreement on Tariffs and

Trade. In addition, it binds both sides to co-operate in fighting terrorism, drug smuggling and international crime, protecting the environment and preventing the proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and missile technology.

The declarations come in response to last year's call by James Baker, the American Secretary of State, for closer institutional co-operation between the United States and the community. Mr Baker and M Delors both wanted EC-US relations put on a treaty footing, with the establishment of twice-yearly summits and joint meetings between the European Commission and delegations of American cabinet members. This has now been watered down to a simple declaration of principles instead of a full treaty for resolving disputes.

The declaration with Canada has almost identical wording and also provides for regular consultations. Both, however, come at a time of deep disagreement with the community over the GATT trade talks, and especially the EC's position on agriculture.

The final round of ministerial talks among the 107 participating nations is to begin here on Monday week. But six Latin American countries have threatened to walk out of the talks and Arthur Dunkel, the secretary-general of GATT, has given a warning that the whole negotiating round may now end in deadlock.

GATT unresolved, page 35

China aims to tighten its grip on Hong Kong

Peking - In a move apparently designed to increase central control over Hong Kong, China has replaced its top official responsible for the British colony.

A spokesman for the Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office said yesterday that Lu Ping, the deputy director since 1987, would take over the directorship from Ji Pengfei, who had headed the office for the past eight years.

Mr Ji, a former foreign minister with close ties to China's top leaders, exercised a degree of independence in formulating policy for Hong Kong. The Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office is under the state council, China's cabinet, and is the highest government organ dealing with the two territories, which are return to Chinese rule by the end of the century.

Since the June 1989 suppression of the pro-democracy movement in Peking that was popularly supported in Hong Kong, China has sought to tighten control over the colony.

The spokesman said Mr Ji and another deputy, Li Hou, submitted resignations in April, citing old age. Mr Ji is 81 years old. Mr Li, however, is 67 - still considered young in the Chinese leadership.

MPs congratulate Indian diplomat

A motion congratulating Sri Kaldip Nayyar, the outgoing High Commissioner of India and a former *Times* correspondent in Delhi, has been passed in the House of Commons.

The high commissioner, who hosted a farewell dinner two days ago, was particularly congratulated for his initiatives in reducing visa fees for people visiting India from Britain and for forging bonds of friendship with Indian communities in Britain.

Mr Nayyar, who had been jailed during the Indira Gandhi emergency, was appointed high commissioner by the previous Indian government earlier this year. His successor has yet to be named.

Queen visits RAF

Weeze, Germany - The Queen made a private visit to staff and their families at the RAF base of Laarbruch, and lunched in the mess. In six previous visits to Germany, the Queen had not visited the RAF. Hours before the BA-146 of the Queen's Flight taxied to a standstill, three Tornados from XV Squadron flew off to join the British forces in the Gulf. Three more leave today and by Christmas 200 personnel from Laarbruch will be in Saudi Arabia.

Zambian reform

Leaseka - Zambia MPs will debate a constitutional reform bill next week to legalise opposition parties, official newspapers quoted Malimba Mashake, the prime minister, as saying. In September, President Kamunda bowed to pressure for an end to one-party rule and promised multi-party elections next year. (*Reuter*)

Cash for victims

Prague - Czechoslovakia has agreed payment to victims of stalinist purges in the decades after Communist rule began in 1948. Because the government is strapped for cash, most of the victims' compensation will come as share certificates in privatised state companies. Political prisoners from the 1950s will be paid an immediate sum of 10,000 crowns (£167); 800,000 Czechoslovaks are eligible for compensation.

Ottawa brawl

Ottawa - The Canadian Senate was adjourned in turmoil after shouting and verbal abuse between Conservative and opposition Liberal members. In an argument over the government's proposed goods-and-services tax, enraged Liberals excoriated the Speaker, Guy Charbonneau, after he had cut off an independent senator who wanted to introduce an amendment. One Liberal denounced Mr Charbonneau as "a bloody disgrace".

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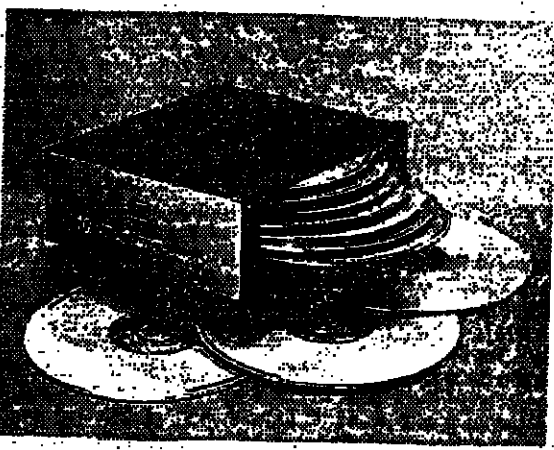


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"I'm not very technically minded but one thing I do know is that if you're bombing up the M1, having a car does save wear and tear on the seat of your trousers. I'm not very good at makes of cars, but I know that mine is one of the 'blue ones'.
I'm one of those people who just use a car for getting from A to B; which is a bit of a shame, actually, because most of my friends live at D, and I work in South Q. However, I do appreciate a bit of in-car entertainment. When I'm driving I love

listening to Suzanne Vega, but it's becoming increasingly difficult for me to persuade her to come with me, especially if it's down to the Arsenal on a Saturday afternoon. So recently I've had fitted an amazing new entertainment system - the Sony 'Disc Jockey'.
This brilliant piece of equipment comprises a stereo radio cassette and a CD player, which is safely and discreetly tucked away in the boot. The radio gives you 24 preset stations with, of course, FM, MW



and LW (for people who don't know what those letters stand for, it means you can listen to Freddie Mercury, Marti Webb and Larry Williams... whose song 'Shoo doo tu fu ooh' got to number 38 in November 1977!).
The CD player takes 10 discs at a time, giving you up to 12 hours of continuous music, which is brilliant if you're on a 12 hour journey, like the one from Junction 15 on the M25 to Junction 16 on the M25. But, best of all, it has a 'shuffle-play' feature which randomly plays tracks from all the discs.

The only thing I'm not certain about is why it's called the DISC-JOCKEY... I suppose if you press the right buttons it can get past the door at 'Stringfellows', appear on 'Blankety Blank' and open supermarkets. I could be wrong, I'm not technically minded you see. I'll ask Suzanne Vega when she's next in the car..."

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THE SWORD IN THE STONE

"Whoso pulleth out this sword of this stone and anvil is rightwise King born of all England." In the manner of Arthurian legend, the three contenders for the Tory leadership must prove themselves worthy of the Thatcherite succession. The Tory party in the country, most of it enraged at the manner of Mrs Thatcher's ejection, now demands a leader to carry on the spirit she demonstrated so brilliantly in Thursday's censure debate. The tests are stiff. They differ for each candidate, and none has yet shown he can easily pass.

Michael Heseltine is still favourite. The polls indicate that he would be the most likely to win an early general election and his backers laud his strong but dignified campaigning style. He has maiden-in-distress appeal. But he is handicapped by being counted, with Nigel Lawson and Sir Geoffrey Howe, among the regicides, and regicides rarely take the crown. Although the true culprits were the cabinet faint-hearts, Mr Heseltine can never present himself as the candidate of unity. Almost to a man, the cabinet colleagues would poison his wine. He must thus pass the party unity test.

He must pass two more tests. He must convince his colleagues of his temperamental stability under pressure. He must also establish his credentials as able to build on the foundation of Thatcherism, rather than offer an alternative, harking back to the 1970s. He has made mistakes in his campaign. His poll tax reform implies that the tax can be related more closely to ability to pay and that some of education could be switched to central government without raising income tax.

Mr Heseltine's desire for a super-ministry of trade and industry needs more definition, as do his monetary and trade policies. His case for government intervention was unfairly dismissed as crypto-socialist by Mrs Thatcher last week. But it struck a dull chord in those for whom such ideas are neo-Heathite. Mr Heseltine's enthusiasm for European co-operation is regarded by his critics as craven submission to every lunacy out of Brussels. He needs to rebut these charges. Hard tests indeed.

Candidate number two, Douglas Hurd, has to his credit solid achievement in the Home Office and Foreign Office, where he was an effective leader and communicator and a skilled operator of the Whitehall machine. But his tests are also tough. He is the oldest candidate, at 60, and must convey energy and innovative zeal to supplement his obvious maturity of judgment. Although only three years his senior, he lacks the vigour of Mr Heseltine. Ideologically, he is detached from the Thatcher legacy, perhaps an asset one day but a liability in her afterglow. Mr Hurd seems

to hark back, less to the days of Edward Heath (whose private secretary he was) than to Butler or Macmillan. "We have to be more persuasive and less assertive," he declared yesterday. Courtesy, Mr Hurd's watchword, behoves courtiers better than kings.

Foreign affairs is Mr Hurd's strong suit. But here the test is to show that he is not the creature of the Foreign Office, which dragged him mercilessly through a recent Israeli fiasco, that he is "his own man" as Mrs Thatcher was most emphatically her own woman. If he is not his own man in foreign affairs, what is he likely to be when he must play his weakest suit, taking on tax reform or interest rate policy against the Treasury or monetary union against the Euro-federalists? These are tough challenges.

Candidate number three, and strengthening by the day, is John Major. He is blessed with anonymity, a kindly manner and almost no record to which exception might be taken. But he has the hardest test of all: to find a political personality of any sort. He was at the Treasury when monetary targets were abandoned in the latter half of the 1980s and when economic sovereignty was sacrificed at the altar of inflation. Mr Major was of the team which produced the Lawson boom. He has regretted that, but he must tell the nation what he means by regret. What did he learn?

He must do more. Mr Major is the youngest and least experienced of the candidates. He has not known the heat of crisis. Mr Major was declared "all at sea" in his brief time at the Foreign Office, before scuttling back to the safe embrace of his Treasury nannies. A competent Chancellor is one thing. A prime minister must be wholly different. Could he stand the strain? That is the question even those close to him still ask.

Mr Major's great test is thus to show he can assert himself over, not just among, his colleagues — assert himself not merely as a chief secretary asserts himself, but as leader of a stunned nation. He has to show he can do this where the more experienced Mr Heseltine and Mr Hurd could not. He has made a virtue of being politically unspecific. He appears to have no political creed. He has gained the endorsement of the party right, yet appears liberal on social policy, law and order and even public spending. Who is he? And if he is worthy of Downing Street, why does he want it now? This is surely the hardest test of all.

So the knights go out. None has so far shown he can take up the challenge of Mrs Thatcher's uncompleted revolution. The sword will glow in the granite for four, perhaps six, days only. Who shall show himself worthy of Excalibur?

THE POLL TAX INCUBUS

She chained it to their ankles and made them drag it round the hustings. She swore she would never rid them of it. She cared not what it did to her opinion poll ratings. Now it has come to haunt the three candidates for the Tory leadership. The poll tax was the most foolish measure Margaret Thatcher introduced. Costly to collect, easy to evade and unfair in its incidence, virtually nobody with experience of local government money saw it as other than the foible of an over-confident centralist.

Now that Mrs Thatcher has gone, the moment is propitious for demolition. Not surprisingly, each of the candidates has swiftly promised a review, with Michael Heseltine taking the lead as a long-standing critic of the tax. He has squandered that lead by failing to grasp the essence of what the government must now do. Mr Heseltine, like Messrs Hurd and Major, merely promised yet another review of the tax, waffling about "ability to pay".

There have been three substantive reviews of this tax already. The first came at the time of the original bill and concluded that the tax would be so regressive that a complex system of safety nets, rebates and transitional reliefs would have to be included. The second came last year, when Conservative pressure had reached such a pitch that the environment secretary, Chris Patten, himself unhappy about the tax, agreed to look yet again at the rebates and reliefs. He also agreed to reduce the size of the tax, by throwing £3 billion at local authorities. Both these reviews reinforced the widespread opinion of officials and ministers in Whitehall that the tax was bad and increasingly unworkable. A huge logjam of enforcement cases now confronts the overburdened courts.

The third review was conducted by the Labour party earlier this year, goaded into

proposing its "alternative" both to the poll tax and to the rating system. Labour discovered what any philosopher could have told it, that only death and taxes are certain. Just as Mrs Thatcher's vow to "abolish the rates" was politically naive, so any search for a pain-free alternative was a will-o'-the-wisp. The best approach is simply to fix on the cheapest, fairest and most certain tax. There is no problem here, since such a tax exists in every democratic country in the world. It is based on property. In Britain until last April, it was called the rates.

Labour has courageously come to this conclusion. The country now waits to see which candidate for the Tory leadership will have the courage to do the same. Local taxation, an important constitutional mechanism for local democratic accountability, could then be removed from party conflict. The rates could be restored on existing valuations (still used for water rate purposes). Strictly local distortions in values could be met by local revaluation, as before. Regional inequalities could be met, again as before, through the government block grant system.

Business rates, where there was a case for revaluation, should revert to local assessment. This might be tough for businesses in left-wing areas — but that is what accountability means. Rate payment could also be made compulsory for every household, including those paying council or private rents, to achieve the individual accountability theoretically sought under poll tax but eroded in practice through a welter of reliefs. Any further reform could be left to a cross-party committee of enquiry.

What would be impressive would be for all three candidates to promise to lance the boil. The whole ghastly chapter could then end.

AND ALL THAT

This is the diamond jubilee of 1066 and *All That*. How better to celebrate that Sellar and Yeatman masterpiece than to bring it bang up to date...

In 1979 a housewife named Mrs Thatcher found herself in Downing Street and thus began the Age of Thatcherism. She followed an utterly petty officer called Callaghan, unmemorable except for his wintery discontent. Mrs Thatcher was memorable for being a Woman. She disliked socialists, foreigners, the Bishop of Durham, other women and Ted Heath, a failed band leader.

Mrs Thatcher wanted to privatise everything including her ministers and her electricity (thus earning her the Cossack title of *Iron Lady*). Her biggest ally was a South American general called "Gouty" Airy who invaded the Falkland Islands. The Navy sent a tank force commanded by Mrs Thatcher's son, Prince Andrew, to find out where they were. This led to a hit song, "Don't frighten me Argentina", the downfall of Airy and Mrs Thatcher's recognition as a Great War Leader.

Mrs Thatcher now became famous for her enemies. One of them, Arthur Kohl, not to be confused with another, Helmut Kohl, was wildly in favour of a three-day week, sometimes called a no-day week, for miners. Mrs Thatcher completely defeated him at the Battle of Orgreave by sending a little old man called Macgregor to speak to them in a completely foreign language. When he offered

them a Brass Band they immediately returned to work. When they got there, Mr Macgregor had closed all the mines. This was accepted as a Good Compromise and showed that Mrs Thatcher was a Great Peacetime Leader.

Mrs Thatcher's greatest problem was Europe. Whenever she went to Europe to fight Helmut Kohl, she lost another minister in the Channel, including Michael Brannan, the Lion of Britain, Sir Geoffrey Who and Major Lawson. They all disappeared utterly, most of them on Agatha Christie's birthday. This was considered careless and suspicious.

She now called herself "we" and even Queen. When her courtiers told her she was in danger of becoming a totally Bad Thing, she said she would prove her popularity by deliberately doing The Most Horrible Thing in British History. This was the poll tax. Everybody had to pay a fine to dreaded Militants whenever questioned by a pollster, known as a Mori. This indeed proved fantastically unpopular.

It was also a Bad Move. Opposition now formed round Brilliantine and his "men in grey suits" and staged an election. Margaret dressed up in a ruff, like Elizabeth the First, to show she really ruled the country. She announced "I fight, I fight to win" — a famous British phrase of surrender — and privatised herself in a puff of smoke. Thus her great and glorious reign came to an end.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Pluses and minuses for Thatcher

From Mr C. S. P. Harwood

Sir, Those who cry "treachery" and accuse the Conservative MPs of disloyalty adopt the same position as those who fought to keep the steel mills and mining villages unchanged despite the change in economic conditions. To retain the status quo, despite a perceived need for change, for emotional reasons leads to long-term suffering and further decline. It is sad to see a prime minister, who has achieved so much for the country, leave in such a manner. It was also sad to see mining communities break up and steel workers made redundant after years of loyal service. Both, however, had to happen and appeals to one's heart will hurt but should not prevent the right decision being made.

Yours sincerely,
C. S. P. HARWOOD,
5 Orchard Court,
Victoria Rise, SW4.

From Mr Lance Mitchell

Sir, Two moments from the 1990 Conservative party conference will live forever in my memory.

One, of course, is the leader's brilliantly inspired "dead parrot" joke. The other is the Chairman's call, "Hands up! Hands up! ... all those who think the prime minister is doing a good job! ... There BBC! There's your answer! Film that!"

Wasn't it wonderful to see the Conservative party united behind their leader?

Yours faithfully,
LANCE MITCHELL,
c/o The Heights,
Broadway, Whitwell,
Hertfordshire.

From Miss Jacqui D. Ross

Sir, The prime minister's resignation has, quite rightly, prompted many tributes and it is only fair that her many achievements should be remembered. But we must not overlook her failings, assessing Michael Heseltine, Geoffrey Howe and the like as villains and Margaret Thatcher the victim.

I believe, Sir, that we have been the victims of an over-powerful prime minister for too long. I look forward to the return of cabinet government under Mr Heseltine.

Yours faithfully,
JACQUE ROSS,
2 St John Street,
York.

From Mr Geoffrey Mills

Sir, Sir Jeffrey Sterling (November 17) suggested that the exchange rate is the only option poll which matters when considering our prime minister's performance.

In 1979 the pound was worth over 500s (today 250s), DM 4 (today 2.9), Sw Fr 3.6 (today 2.4) and Gld 4.4 (today 3.3). Even in relation to the sickly US dollar it has fallen from 2.3 to 1.9.

From Miss C. M. Newman

Sir, Peter Herbert's analogy (November 17) is misplaced. The young European judges he refers to are the products of a career judiciary operating in inquisitorial systems. The British adversarial system demands of its judges that they have considerable experience in the presentation of cases in court before pretending to an ability to rule on them.

There is no foundation for the argument that in order to serve society the judiciary must reflect it. The interests which Mr Herbert very properly seeks to advance, namely full acceptance in public and professional life of those women and members of ethnic minorities who wish to serve, would undoubtedly be advanced by his proposal, but that is not, or should not be, the point.

Yours faithfully,
CERIDWEN NEWMAN,
13 Old Square,
Lincoln's Inn, WCL.

From Mr S. C. Procter

Sir, As a former chief officer in a district authority, I would like to comment on Douglas Broom's report, "Poll tax defaulters may lose the vote" (November 8). It illustrates many of the nonsense of this "tax".

First, it is pertinent to recall that those who have to administer the community charge and others who thought intelligently about it, warned, warned and warned again that it would be very expensive to administer, fraught with difficulty in its collection and seen as unfair to many. The Government did not listen.

The community charge, to give

Equally embarrassing comparative declines can be seen since 1979 in our trade balance, training, education, research, rail and roads, law and order, or in any other social or commercial comparisons with the performance of similar countries. All that despite the windfall wealth of North Sea oil, which first came fully on stream in 1979.

What motivates some of our business leaders to keep on telling us that all that is good performance?

Yours faithfully,
GEOFFREY MILLS,
43 Whetstone Close,
Egham, Surrey,
November 20.

From Mr John Allan May

Sir, The Tories can win the next election if they cut inflation sharply, basically amend the poll tax and in general show that they are as concerned for the lives of the young and the less-well-off as they are for the fortunes of the well-to-do. If they do these things the name of the prime minister doesn't matter. If they don't they will lose anyway.

Yours truly,
JOHN ALLAN MAY,
Amberley, Dances Close,
Oxshott, Surrey.

From Mr R. F. Sawle

Sir, It would now appear to be acceptable for a party to be elected to government under one leader, only for that leader to be ousted at the whim of its MPs. This time it has occurred after three years of a government. Who is to say such a patch would not occur immediately after a general election?

Yours faithfully,
R. F. SAWLE,
Wayside, 62 Bradley Road,
Trowbridge, Wiltshire.

From Mr Keith A. Bevan

Sir, In the event of Douglas Hurd becoming prime minister may I suggest that he need only make one cabinet change. That being the appointment of Mrs Thatcher to his former post as foreign secretary, thereby enabling the formidable Mrs Thatcher to continue in the role to which she is best suited, as an ambassador for the country on the world stage.

Yours faithfully,
KEITH BEVAN,
16 Summerfield Court,
Edge Lane,
Chorlton-cum-Hardy,
Manchester 21.

From Mr Colin Lear

Sir, Loyal Conservatives should unite and nominate a candidate for Hendley.

Yours faithfully,
COLIN LEAR,
Castle Farm,
Cheltenham, Gloucestershire.

Kwai bridge victims

From Major P. M. Robinson

Sir, Your report "Kwai bridge victims being found" (November 19) states that this mass grave at Kanchanaburi "is the first from the second world war to be found in South East Asia".

In July 1943 about 40 or 50 miles up the line and up river at Toungmye Camp during the cholera outbreak, I saw an open mass grave of Asian forced labourers. Kanchanaburi was only near the beginning of the line, and comparatively civilised. The further the line went, through the jungle the rougher the conditions were. There must be many more mass graves to be discovered up there.

These tens of thousands of Asians should also be remembered.

Yours faithfully,
PAUL M. ROBINSON,
52 Wharfedale Road,
Ilkerton, Derbyshire,
November 19.

From Mr S. C. Procter

Sir, As a former chief officer in a district authority, I would like to comment on Douglas Broom's report, "Poll tax defaulters may lose the vote" (November 8). It illustrates many of the nonsense of this "tax".

First, it is pertinent to recall that those who have to administer the community charge and others who thought intelligently about it, warned, warned and warned again that it would be very expensive to administer, fraught with difficulty in its collection and seen as unfair to many. The Government did not listen.

The community charge, to give

Child protection

From the Director of Family Rights Group

Sir, We are saddened to read (report, November 13) of Rochdale's failure to follow government guidance on child protection procedures, but we are not surprised by the inspectors' findings.

Our agency has just come to the end of a three-year project to promote family participation in child protection work. It has revealed that fewer than 10 per cent of local authority areas in England and Wales have proper procedures to encourage and enable parents to participate in crucial planning and decision-making meetings about their children.

It is small wonder that the exclusion of parents from child protection conferences features as one of the most consistent complaints raised in our national

advice service about care and child protection matters.

Yet another set of government recommendations and guidance might succeed in shifting practice in individual agencies that come under public scrutiny. But they stand little chance of making much impact in the many other areas where inter-agency committees and the NSPCC have chosen to reject earlier guidance on parental involvement.

At the heart of the problem is the view of some professionals that they hold all the answers on child protection, and that parents' knowledge and expertise about their children count for nothing. The balance of power between agencies and families will need to shift dramatically before we see

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (071) 782 5046.

Regionalising orchestras' funds

From the Chairman of the Halle Concerts Society and others

Sir, The Minister for the Arts, David Mellor, has recently secured a notable victory on behalf of the arts in the annual battle with the Treasury (report, November 10).

Regrettably, so far as the regionally-based symphony orchestras are concerned, and in this context London has been "regionalised", much of his success is about to be seriously undermined by a bureaucratic process Mr Mellor has inherited from his predecessor, originally called devolution, now called delegation, and more aptly dubbed relegation.

This process may have advantages for some Arts Council clients but it is the unanimous view of the major symphony orchestras in this country, currently funded by the Arts Council, that delegation could put them at a severe financial disadvantage.

The symphony orchestras in England provide a nationwide service and are active worldwide. Although naturally they have a centre of operation in one city, they all present far more concerts outside their own region than within it. Local authority support from within the area of the arts board to which they are to be delegated, except in the case of Birmingham, is significantly less than that derived from local authorities outside their regions.

The cost of this proposed reorganisation, including redundancy packages at the existing

regional arts associations and at the Arts Council, is reported to be £3.5 million. This will inevitably mean less for arts organisations generally, and one must question the rationale of money being wasted on bureaucracy in this way. At the same time it is envisaged that the Arts Council will still play the role of the policeman to try to protect their delegated clients. This appears to make the whole exercise pointless as well as expensive and any ensuing conflict would be at our expense.

This regionalisation of the funding of our symphony orchestras can achieve nothing good. It will seriously undermine the national and international standing of these orchestras which in turn will make it more difficult than ever for them to secure the levels of sponsorship so necessary to their survival.

We would urge the Minister and the Arts Council to think again before any fundamental damage is caused to some of this country's finest assets.

Yours faithfully,
SEBASTIAN DE FERRANTI,
Chairman, Halle Concerts Society,
GEORGE JONAS, Chairman,
City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra Society,
JOHN LAST, Chairman,
Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Society,
NIGEL BEALE, Chairman,
Western Orchestral Society,
30 Cross Street,
Manchester 2,
November 21.

Religious freedom

From the Archdeacon of Durham

Sir, The Reverend Michael Barber (November 17) asks the Saudi authorities to be as sympathetic towards freedom of religious expression in their country as we are in ours. I would like it to be as simple as that. Alas, it is not.

Mr Barber's parish church is built on consecrated ground; ground, that is, which is reserved in perpetuity for the worship of God as Christians understand him. He would (I imagine) be affronted if Muslim worship were to be offered on the site of the altar. To the Saudis, the whole of their country is consecrated ground — ground, that is, that is reserved in perpetuity for the worship of God as Muslims conceive him. To allow Christian worship anywhere in that land would be as offensive as to allow Islamic worship in All Saints' in Sunderland.

British law allows a fiction whereby, if the church is redundant or its ground is required for purposes such as roadworks, the "legal effects of consecration" can be removed and the ground treated as if it were unconsecrated. Perhaps we should explore with the Saudis whether a similar fiction could be allowed on Saudi soil, as it is on the soil of many another Islamic state?

But even if this were to be possible, the process of law is (notoriously) slow, and I do not imagine we would reach agreement in time for carol services to be openly held on Saudi soil this Christmas.

Yours sincerely,
MICHAEL PERRY,
7 The College, Durham.

Gulag prisoner

From Mrs Joyce Simson

Sir, In his article, "Keep it up, Mr Gorbachev, but don't forget the Gulag" (November 16), Bernard Levin was concerned that Mr Gorbachev himself would never learn the sad details concerning Adolf Gurbitz, still incarcerated in a Siberian labour camp.

May I reassure Mr Levin? On November 20 at the Paris summit I personally handed Mr Gorbachev the case history of Mr Gurbitz. I had already asked Mr Gorbachev to remember the victims of injustice still suffering in his country and he asked me to give specific particulars. He received Adolf Gurbitz's biography most willingly.

Now I hope that he will act on the information. There is no longer any doubt that President Gorbachev knows the details of Adolf Gurbitz's situation.

If he is not released, Mr Gorbachev must share the KGB guilt.

Yours sincerely,
JOYCE SIMSON,
Women's Campaign for Soviet Jewry,
Pinnell House,
779/781 Finchley Road, NW11,
November 22.

any real progress on joint work to protect children and promote their welfare.

Legislation might succeed where guidance has failed. When the Children Act was passing through Parliament two years ago the Lords tried, but failed, to get inserted into the Act the Cleveland recommendation that parents should attend child protection conferences.

If that amendment had succeeded, we are sure that agencies would now be working out ways of changing practice before the Act is introduced next year. An amendment at this late stage might offer the best chance that children will no longer be failed by agencies who continue to ignore their families.

Yours faithfully,
JO TUNNARD, Director,
Family Rights Group,
The Print House,
18 Ashwin Street, E8.

From Mr Mohammad Galal Keshk

Sir, In your editorial entitled "Rites in the Gulf" (November 13), which provoked several letters (November 17), your comparison between religious tolerance in Iraq and in Iran (shown by having a Christian minister in the former and Christian MPs in the latter) on one hand and that of the intolerance in Saudi Arabia (shown by having no churches) on the other, is misleading.

Saudi Arabia has no Christian citizens, while the other two countries do.

Iraq and Iran, which have been praised for their religious tolerance, are leading the campaign against Saudi Arabia. Their argument being that Saudi Arabia allowed the "infidels" to desecrate the holy land, and that Saudi Arabia is giving the "Crusaders" another opportunity to establish Christianity in the Holy Land.

The fact that only one religion can be practised in Saudi Arabia is a fact that is agreed upon and enforced by the will of the whole Muslim world, and it is in no one's interest to challenge it.

With respect,
M. G. KESHK,
431 Fulham Road, SW10,
November 19.

From Mr Edward F. Northcote

Sir, Can the objects of a "just war" include the defence of a state which does not tolerate Christian observances?

Yours faithfully,
EDWARD F. NORTHCOTE,
38 Westmore Court,
Carlton Drive, SW15,
November 17.

Sent to try us

From Mrs Helen Tarnay

Sir, In response to Mr Turner (November 20) I can confidently confirm, having lived, rented houses, spent holidays or stayed with relations in most European countries (including several in the former Eastern bloc) and despite having four daughters between the ages of 12 and 21, that there is nothing more exasperating than wiring a 13-amp plug.

Yours faithfully,
HELEN TARNAY,
Gale, Chelwood Gate, Sussex.

From Mrs Margaret Whitaker

Sir, Surely the most exasperating experience must be trying to discover which bulb on the circuit is responsible for dousing the Christmas tree lights five minutes before guests are due to arrive. Yours, in annual anticipation, M. WHITAKER, Ayalon, Newtonmore Drive, Mount Pleasant, Shrewsbury, Shropshire.

From Mr Graeme Johnston

Sir, I recently bought a dishwasher for my new home. It came ready fitted with a scaled 13-amp plug. To get from the machine to the electric socket, the cable had to pass through a narrow hole in the frame of the kitchen unit. I had no alternative but to remove the fitted plug, throw it away and wire a new one.

Yours,
GRAEME JOHNSTON,
2 Moreton Drive,
Buckingham.

From Mrs Helen E. Morris

Sir, Peter Turner asks if there is anything more exasperating than wiring a 13-amp plug. Yes there is: a husband who can't. Yours patiently,
HELEN E. MORRIS,
11 Wyndham Road,
Haywards Heath, Sussex.

From Mr Stan Bryett

Sir, Watching my wife wiring it, chauvinistically yours,
STAN BRYETT,
29 Rushout Avenue,
Kenton,
Harrow, Middlesex.

Farmer's Diary: Paul Heiney

Stable mates bid for power

THE only item in our old stable that relates in any way to the latter half of this century is a transistor radio, I switch it on for the early morning news and more often than not it stays switched on. However, I have decided that I must be more careful about leaving it blaring. The political upheavals of the past week have proved infectious, and the farm is now in the midst of its own leadership battle.

To predict the outcome you need to know the contenders for the crown and the deviousness of the electoral system. When we had only two horses life was simple. Punch was premier. Punch is a good-looking horse, intelligent but self-willed. For a decade he has been paired with Star, his deputy, who is as good a workhorse as anyone could wish for. Star is never bad-tempered and has never refused to pull with all his might. I heard that a previous owner had accidentally driven Star into a ditch so deep it needed the fire brigade to drag him out. When the rescue team arrived, it found the peaceful Star up to his knees in mud, eyes half closed, blissfully enjoying the fresh grass growing up the sides of the deep drain and blaming nobody. It took a crane to lift him out, after which the old statesman was put back between the shafts and ambled off as if nothing had happened. It was his finest hour.

But as in politics, so in the farmyard: it is not always the best man that wins. For most of his working life the down-trodden Star has been ruled by his chippy companion Punch, who can be bad-tempered. Sensing when it is time for work he will fling his head to the rafters to make it more difficult to get his collar on. When ploughing, he will stop, irritatingly, half way along the furrow if he thinks it is time he has a rest. You may curse, even scream at him, but he shows his insolent mastery by moving off as slowly as he knows how.

Back at the stable he ruthlessly reaffirms his status by pawing the concrete floor with his front feet if he is not fed before the others. He knows that to a farmer who has to pay ever-increasing blacksmith's bills, nothing grates like the sound of the needless scraping of a £10 iron horseshoe.

So the old ruler reigned unchallenged until the spring, when our new young horse, Blue, arrived. I have already detailed the bitter battle that raged the night he moved in. Equine teeth were bared and those who feel wounded by political back-biting can think themselves lucky they did not have the angry Punch coming at their spines with mouth wide open. He won the first round. There was no second ballot.

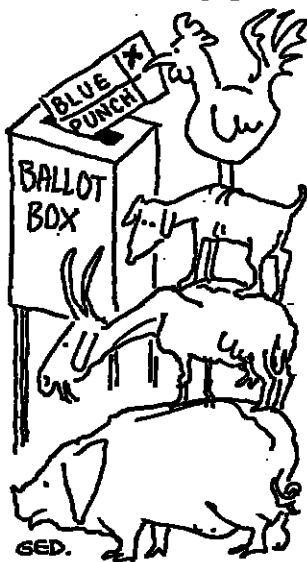
Things settled down for the long hot summer and each horse made his own territory on the meadow. Blue standing apart from the others, younger and fitter, with his flowing mane. It looked as though nothing could upset the old order. But when the season turned and the days grew shorter, I brought the horses back to the yard for the winter. Punch, at 15 years old, is looking his age. It is rare for him to go ploughing, for Blue and the ever youthful Star make an easily worked and efficient team.

Blue, sensing that Punch may be losing his grip, is seizing his opportunity. Hence the leadership crisis. We have a hayrack at which Punch and Star used to feed, with Blue approaching only when they had finished. Now I notice he is standing his ground, and if he gets there first he will not budge. It means more back-biting, more aggravation. Fearing an accident, I have been putting a separate pile of hay in the corner away from the rest, so that he can feed in peace. But as soon as the horses are released from the stable Punch, I notice, walks straight over to his rival's hay and piddles all over it. His political technique would be the envy of even the most ruthless parliamentary chief whip.

I am not quite certain which of them will emerge as the new leader. When I open the stable door in the morning, I observe closely the order in which they file through. Blue, I'm sorry to say, is still last. Surprisingly, Star is occasionally first. Perhaps the dark horse will make it after all.

Which horse decides it is boss matters little; the farm is a dictatorship. If any of them start getting above themselves I warn them that the phone number of the cat meat man is at hand.

However, dictators have been having a difficult time lately and with the anniversaries of events in eastern Europe, I think the radio must be silenced. It gives the carthorses too many ideas.



House with thatched eyebrows

Home from home: Deborah Kellaway

On the table in front of the window overlooking a London square is a big pot of sugar pink Jersey lilies (nerines), curvaceous and confident, glorifying grey November days in the city. They had been flowering since the beginning of October at Deborah Kellaway's home in Norfolk. "Flopping about either side of our garden door," Mrs Kellaway and her husband bought their country cottage, with its acre and a half of land, 25 years ago. The cottage, three or four hundred years old with two huge beamed fireplaces, had been recently restored, and had "such a pretty little face, with two upstairs windows like eyes under curved thatched eyebrows", but the land had fallen derelict.

When they began work on the garden, the weeds stood as high as their eldest, nine-year-old daughter, Kate. By the time they had cleared them, and cut back the overgrown hedges which had obscured far-reaching views from the hedgerow oak over the meadows beyond, the cottage stood not so much in a garden as in a Siberian landscape. Bleak and bare, it was without perspective, the points of reference which trees and paths and borders bestow to make a house fit into its countryside.

The story of how Mrs Kellaway achieved that fit was told in her book *The Making of an English Country Garden*, published in 1988. Last month she published its corollary, *The Making of Town Gardens*. Her books are a pleasure for the non-gardener and gardener alike. There are no long lists, no deadly hints. The thread of her whole life runs through the development of the gardens.

For several years after her marriage in 1952 the room intended for a baby's nursery in the Kellaways' London home was, instead, a nursery for begonias. As the years went by there were more begonias, but still no baby. Then, "after five years of planting", Mrs Kellaway writes, "a change came over the garden. There was a pram on the lawn."

With the arrival of the children came the urge to get away somewhere for holidays. "And I did think the English countryside was so beautiful - for the softness of the light and the green."

Mrs Kellaway had been brought up in Australia. She was "knocked sideways" by Oxford in October when she came to England to do her degree in 1946. "Old stone, green lawns, autumn trees." But the desire for a second home arose because she had not really chosen her first one. "It belonged to my mother-in-law and we lived at the top in a flat. She generously gave it to us when she went back to Australia. It was a lovely house, but I hadn't chosen it."

Perhaps that was part of the



Out of dereliction comes forth beauty: Deborah Kellaway harvests the pleasures of the cottage garden she and her husband created in Norfolk

appeal of the unmade garden at the Norfolk cottage, which involved an orgy of choosing. Mrs Kellaway and her husband would drive down with their three children, two dogs and the cat for school holidays, at half-term and, if they could, every third weekend.

There were quarry tiles to be chosen for the kitchen, and furniture. She bought beech chairs with a carved rail on turned legs for 12s.6d (about 63p) at auction and a rectangular oak drop-leaf table for £8.

Above all, there was choosing for the garden. It is glorious now. Two Irish yews frame the face of the cottage. The little window in the kitchen with its six fixed panes looks out over a herb garden, with towering angelica, through a clearing in the woodland and over to the fields. A long lawn runs through the herbaceous border, flanked by a "very tailored" tiered

new hedge, sloping to the willows and the water meadow beyond.

For years the planting was governed by the school holidays when the Kellaways would be there and restricted by the impossibility of daily watering when they were not.

There were no "giant June flowering beauties which all need staking". The blues are *Eryngium yuccifolium*, 2ft tall with lots of little "mist-blue thimbles growing out of a stiff, starry ruff of sepals", and the globe thistle, *Echinops ritro*, "beloved of bees".

The pinks are Japanese anemones and *Lavatera rosea*. Tubs of *Agapanthus campanulatus* thrive without water and surround the eating areas, paved with pammettes, "Norfolk brick things".

The Kellaways eat outside most of the summer, beside the tall pink

waving *Salvia turkestanica* and the huge flat yellow heads of *Achillea filipendula*. Clematis, jasmine and honeysuckle riot up the whitewashed walls, and up to the thatch.

Corresponding discoveries were made in the town garden: *Hemerocallis* from which Mrs Kellaway learnt that "white flowers, not bright flowers, give the greatest sense of space and liberation in a city when summer comes", and a fig tree for "its sheer leafiness and hint of Mediterranean sun that makes it life-enhancing in a city garden".

For winter flowering they chose witch hazel and viburnum. *Viburnum bodnantense* *Dehden* saw them through the Christmas holidays and longer - "until the daffodils came out" - and they look after themselves.

Now the children are grown up, and Mrs Kellaway has given up

her part-time job teaching English at a girls' school in Camden, north London, she and her husband, a retired historian, are no longer restricted to holiday flowerings and planting in Norfolk. "My husband looks after all the grass and the quite ridiculous yards of hedges. He likes the lawn to have a neat frame; and then I can have untidy flowers within. We are tied to the garden, but it's so good for us. It is our work; I'd be lost without it."

The cottage was newly thatched when they bought it. They had it rethatched 12 years later, but not with Norfolk reed. "The thatcher said, 'Oh, straw'll see you out, but it hasn't. It needs doing again.'"

ELUNED PRICE

● *The Making of an English Country Garden* (Chato & Windus, paperback, £7.99). *The Making of Town Gardens* (Macmillan, £14.95).

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BREEDING rabbits is a fast moving business, according to Edwin Sutton, who worriedly checks his watch, rather like Alice's White Rabbit. He is rushing to clear a consignment detained at Kuala Lumpur airport, in Malaysia. His company, Hyline Rabbits, of Lymington, Hampshire, exports breeding stock to about 50 countries.

He says his business helps to alleviate world hunger, and claims the Pope has predicted that by the year 2000 a third of the world's population would be sustained by rabbit meat.

The financial prospects for the business look healthy, says Mr Sutton, who has spent £100,000 developing his Simonside stock. "The export potential is tremendous," he says. "We produce only 44,000 rabbits a week in Britain, but the French farmers produce 10 million a week. The French housewife prefers black rabbits, buying the animal whole."

In this country, housewives keeping rabbits in their back gardens account for 40 per cent of his customers. His "maternity ward" holds about 20,000 rabbits. Mr Sutton's interest in rabbits started in 1955 when his wife, Eileen, bought one for six shillings (about 30p) at an outdoor market. The rabbit proved to be pregnant.

and produced five babies, which were sold for £5. Mr Sutton, then an engineer in the broiler industry, swiftly changed his job to breeding rabbits. At first he imported Californian stock and then implemented genetic breeding programmes, coming up with his

Breeding

Big bucks for Peter sellers



First choice: imported Californian

and produced five babies, which were sold for £5. Mr Sutton, then an engineer in the broiler industry, swiftly changed his job to breeding rabbits. At first he imported Californian stock and then implemented genetic breeding programmes, coming up with his

Carolina rabbit, a rapid grower and breeder with a light bone structure and lots of meat. New Zealand Whites are another strain he recommends for beginner breeders.

Happy rabbits doing what comes naturally mean that a £24 purchase of a doe and buck will earn about £60 a year net.

"Ten rabbits take 20 minutes a day to look after," Mr Sutton says. They eat green stuff, from carrot tops to cabbage stalks, and pelleted food costing £160 a ton, which is also available in small packs.

The does start breeding at five-and-a-half months and, after 28 days' gestation, produce between eight and 14 offspring. His does each produce 60 offspring a year.

The floppy bunny image transferred to the dinner plate may be hard to swallow, but Mr Sutton says that lean, high-protein rabbit meat, chopped and pre-packed at supermarkets, is a big seller.

Mr Sutton also offers a marketing service for clients - "The rabbits are collected live for delivery to the abattoirs, where electrocution is used" - holds open days and runs courses in rabbit farming.

SANDY BISP

● Edwin Sutton, Hyline Rabbits, Lymington, Hampshire W13913 9BT. (02575 3005) (01401).

COUNTRY events

THIS WEEKEND

● **Tatton Tree and Garden** Weekend: Sale of many different garden plants, exhibition of garden paintings and information about the 1991 gardening courses. Tomorrow only, programme of children's events for National Tree Week.

Tatton Park, Knutsford, Cheshire (0565 854 822). Today 1-4pm, tomorrow noon-4pm. Admission to park £1.10, child 60p; £1.30 per car.

● **Powderham Castle** antiques fair: General pre-1901 date. Jewellery, toys, ceramics, prints and paintings will all be dated pre-1920. Powderham Castle, near Starcross, Devon. Further information: 0364 521 82. Today 2-8pm, tomorrow 10.30am-5pm. Admission £1.

● **Christmas in Heworth** village: Every weekend from today until Christmas the village of Brontë's family home is decorated with festive lights. Traders will wear period costume and there will be street entertainment and brass bands. Heworth, Keighley, West Yorkshire. Today and all Saturdays before Christmas.

● **Christmas shopping** at the farm: Seasonal refreshments, Christmas craft stalls, a farm trail with nativity scene and an

opportunity to make Christmas decorations. March Farm Country Park, South Woodham Ferrers, near Chelmsford, Essex (0245 321 552). Today, tomorrow 10am-5pm. Adult £1.50, child £1.

● **Santa Special Steam Train**: Santa Claus travels on the train giving presents to children; in Kent, adult passengers receive hot punch and mince pies. Embassy Steam Railway, near Skipton, North Yorkshire (0756 795 189). Kent and East Sussex Steam Railway, Tenterden, Kent (05806 5155). Tomorrow and every Sunday until Christmas.

● **RSPB demonstration**: Experts explain how to make and site nest boxes - the size, shape and position of which will determine the kind of birds likely to take up residence. Wildfowl Trust, Martin Mere, Ormskirk. Today, tomorrow. For further information: 0704 895181.

● **East Cumbrian guided walk**: Two walks will be held tomorrow, one with an architectural and also a national history scene around the parish of Bewcastle.

Meet at Bewcastle Church at 1pm for a five-mile walk; be sure to wear strong footwear. The other walk has a history scene exploring Penrith and Hutton. Meet at Penrith Dock Village Hall at 10.30am for a six-mile walk. Take packed lunch. Mince pie provided for tea.

● **Plant a Tree Walk**: Join the Border Rangers in a three-mile walk to help plant trees around Lindean Reservoir and discuss the merits of different types of tree as providers of habitat and food for wildlife.

Meet Lindean Reservoir two miles east of Selkirk tomorrow by 1pm. For further information telephone: 0365 23301 ext 433.

NEXT WEEK

● **RHS demonstrations**: At Parsonage College of Horticulture, Worcester, on Wed from 2-4pm: planting hedges and screens. For further information: 0385 524443.

At the RHS headquarters, Wisley Garden, Surrey, on Wed, Thurs and Sat (10.30am-noon): growing grapes under glass. Tickets for the latter £8 in advance from Wisley. For further information: 0483 224234.

● **Castle Howard antiques fair**: 35 selected exhibitors will be selling their wares in the grandeur of stately home roomings. All items will have been vetted by Sotheby's, BADA and Lapada. Most date from the 17th-19th centuries except for jewellery, silver, lamps and linens. Garden furniture, china, books, oils and watercolours will be pre-1930. Castle Howard, near York. Wed 2-8pm, Thurs to Sat 11am-6pm, Sun 11am-5pm. Admission £3.50.

Aids-like virus 'may cause arthritis'

... may be the cause of the arthritis...

Bread of haven in the Welsh valleys

Jo Reardon Smith says: "Everybody talks about everything... but perhaps I wouldn't sit down and talk to them about the war."

Mrs Reardon Smith, who lives in a village near Cardiff, has "adopted" two German families who have recently moved to Wales. The arrangement is part of a scheme set up by Welsh Development International (WDI), a division of the public-funded Welsh Development Agency, for Robert Bosch, the German engineering company which has established its first UK plant at Miskin, south Glamorgan. More than 30 employees have followed it from Germany, and a number of British women have been recruited to help their families to settle in.

When 30 German workers moved to Wales, locals went out of their way to help, reports Candida Crewe

Germany's methodical ways—how they set up the factory, get their houses fixed, I've had the two families under my wing up for Sunday lunch—roast beef and Yorkshire pudding, of course.

In the village pub, Stefan and Martina Zuendorf and Mrs Reardon Smith are contemplating the ploughman's lunch.

Frau Zuendorf, aged 29, has left her chartered accountant's job back home to be a housewife here. "The people here find everything so beautiful," she says. "Our English is always 'great', 'perfect'. They're so complimentary and polite. We have to get used to it."

"We are more honest," says her husband, aged 29, an accountant at Bosch. "For example, there was this lady I met who had a gruff voice. I asked if she had caught a cold. She said no, perhaps it was because she talked too much. I told her, yes, possibly. I think she was a bit surprised."

The three couples I spoke to mentioned the same things. They thought it odd that we eat sandwiches at lunchtime and a big dinner in the evening, and not vice versa. And our lack of environmental awareness struck them all—they cited the lack of recycling facilities here.

"We have a garbage problem in Germany like here," says Beate Turner, aged 39, who is looked after by Sue Reardon Smith, Jo's sister-in-law. "But here, when I asked some man about it, he said: 'We have the Bristol Channel.'"

Frau Turner and her husband Gerhard (a managing director at Bosch) come from Stuttgart and have two children. She says fondly of Sue. "She came over every day to start with so you had the feeling you weren't a nobody."

Frau Turner and Frau Zuendorf have both noted a segregation of the sexes here. "Women aren't so self-confident, nor so integrated," Frau Zuendorf says. The Turners had a house-warming party for the neighbours and were amazed by how the room divided—men one end, women the other.

The Turners' modern house in Cardiff has thick carpets and leather sofas. "Your curtains are very luxurious and comfortable," Herr Turner says. "There you are well ahead. But your heating system and water taps are below standard. In Germany a shower is a real shower."

House prices and the cost of luxuries are higher here, and education is more advanced, they say. Children start school earlier in Britain, learn to read younger, and are more disciplined. "In Germany people have fewer children, so we want to do our best for them," Frau Zuendorf says. "They're more individual. Here people are friendly with them, but they have to do what the parents want."

Frau Zuendorf is pregnant, and "shocked" by the health system. "I think British people live on completely another standard," she says. "To see six women in one room! And such old carpets in the hospital..." She is, however, "impressed by the delivery methods, the new ideas."

But she has no complaints about Jo Reardon Smith, who has taken her to the theatre, shops, a local fashion show, and introduced her to someone who can give English lessons. She says: "I don't know what I would have done without her. Back in Germany we don't have this much support. Jo is a real friend."



Firm friends: Jo Reardon Smith (foreground) with one of her "adopted" German families, the Wohlfarths

Tomes of the seasons

A new shop has its heart in the country

THERE are few less likely settings for rural pursuits than Goodge Street, London W1. Stumbling upon No 39 is a strange experience for it is the home of the Countryside Bookshop which, although only a few months old, can claim a rare commitment to the concept of *rustic* in *urbis*.

Sadly, on the day I went there, it was sparsely visited. There had just been a signing session by Roddy Llewellyn to help launch his collection of garden furniture, and the place was all trellised grooves and kissing chairs.

These are early days for a venture whose very existence is a pointer to the popularity of country literature. There are about 6,500 titles on the premises, the result of colossal toil by Susan Ready, the managing director. "I started sending off for the relevant books," she says, "but to begin with the reps simply didn't show up. They only seem to bother once you get established. We have just produced our own mail order catalogue so people in the country can get books from us without coming up to London."

It has virtually every category of book with even the most tenuous country link, and second-handers with such gems as Odham's *Lovely Britain*, Blandford's *Countryside Mood*, and Sir Ray Lankester's *Some Diversions of a Naturalist*, half-a-crown in 1925.

It all sounds like an unlikely departure for the owner, Felix Dennis, a computer consultant and publisher, until you learn he is a passionate walker. If his name is familiar, that is because 20 years ago he was downright famous as one of the defendants in the *Oz* magazine trial.

ALAN FRANKS
Catalogues from: the Countryside Bookshop, 39 Goodge Street, London W1P 1ED (071-636 3156).

Feather report

Whinge and a prayer

SHORT-eared owls are rather special. For a start, you can see them in the day. They are best seen in winter, in places where savage winds cut across treeless expanses. They love winter marshland: short-eared owls are pretty tough birds. They have the fiercest faces of all the British owls, with improbably bright yellow eyes.

Let me tell you about a rather wonderful place where you can get up to a dozen of them spending the winter. This place is also a roost for wintering hen harriers, as glorious a bird as you could hope to see anywhere in Britain, and it attracts nationally important numbers of teal, those absurdly handsome little ducks with red-green heads. You also get pintail and ruff.

In summer, this grazing marsh supports breeding redshank and lapwing, both declining species in England, and the site is an important stop-off point for migrating birds: so much so that over the past 20 years it has attracted about 170 species—phenomenal by British standards. Where is this site? London, isn't it? That's a magnificent thought! It lies your heart to know that such splendour exists within the capital. And it is a protected area, too, a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). So what are the management plans for this place of wonder?

For a start, the Department of Transport plans to bung a road straight through it. Next, a bunch of developers want to bung a theme park on it.

The site is Rainham Marshes, and there is a public enquiry continuing into the plans for the A13 road. Green issues are a popular concern: recent years have even given us the phenomenon of turquoise politics. Many conservationists see the A13 enquiry as a test case: just how



serious are government bodies about conservation?

The Nature Conservancy Council, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds and the London Wildlife Trust are all preparing to state their cases at this enquiry in the coming weeks. All see this as an important issue: the government's credibility on green issues is at stake.

The LWT has pointed out other sites which the A13 will also damage irreparably. These include a pond complex inside the Dagenham Ford works, which the trust manages, and Rainham Creek. The A13 plans include a slip-road that will go "bang through Marsh Dykes, where they couldn't do more damage if they tried," according to Phil Hurst, the LWT campaigner.

Kevin Bayes, the Thames and Chiltern conservation officer for the RSPB, says: "We are very concerned with the way the DoT tends to deal with conservation issues."

The DoT's view could be summed up as "how can we shut up all these twits, nits and bodybodies and get on with building our roads?" Conservationists are seen as an oppositionist special interest group, rather than people working for a decent future for everybody.

In short, it seems that there has been no important change of thinking. The only difference that

green thinking has made is in the method used for shutting up the twits. In the A13 enquiry, this is called the "amelioration package", a terrifyingly Orwellian phrase.

"They appear to think that they can dig up an SSSI, plant a few bushes along the A13 and then go about saying how green they are," Mr Hurst says. "In fact, their environmental provisions are woefully inadequate. Their plans will have a drastic effect."

The future theme park development is more uncertain. Havering borough council has approved plans which would destroy 700 acres of SSSI. But this has yet to be acted upon: the latest word from the developer, MCA, is that it will wait for a "more favourable economic climate". It is not, presumably, holding its corporate breath. And clearly, the decision on the A13 will be important to its plans.

Conservationists are always whingeing on about something, and thank goodness for that. The LWT has been opposing various different plans for the destruction of Rainham Marsh since the Seventies. The price of conservation is eternal vigilance. And if that means eternal whingeing, let us all give our best to whingeing.

SIMON BARNES
Further details: London Wildlife Trust, 80 York Way, London N1 9AG (071-278 6612).

Taking note of the natural timbre

Originals: Tim Wade, chair bodger

TIM Wade is 6ft 6in tall and knows how difficult it can be to find a comfortable chair. Luckily, he can come up with some of the solutions to this problem himself. He is a bodger, which means he makes chairs by traditional methods, working mostly with green or unseasoned woods. He has been a full-time bodger for five years, one of the few of a new generation of such craftsmen.

His most recent challenge was to make a ladderback rocking chair for a woman who was 6ft 3in, weighed 18st, measured 24in across the hips, and wanted to be able to rest her head on the back of the chair. "When she came to collect it, she did not ease herself gently into the chair to try it out, the way most people do. She just dropped down—plonk! It held up," he says. Such customised comfort, with Mr Wade's signature carved on it, costs £250.

Appropriately for National Tree Week, which started on Thursday, yet another piece of Mr Wade's work, commissioned for the Woodland Trust's "Seats in our Woods" scheme, is in Garth Dingle, Powys, mid Wales. Mr Wade says the seat, made chiefly in oak, is "an overstretched Windsor chair", to seat four people. Screening the back of the seat is a wattle hurdle which incorporates 17 Welsh hardwoods. "If people name all of them, they can win a chair," he says.

Mr Wade, aged 34, wants to encourage more people to enjoy woodlands and, in his own seven acres near Builth Wells, Powys, he has established an open air workshop where he runs courses in chair bodging.

Mr Wade does not use electric-powered tools. After splitting freshly felled logs, he does the rough shaping with a draw-knife on a home-made shaving horse before turning the wood on a pole lathe, cut from a springy sapling and powered by a muscular thigh. "You go to the wood, rather than using fuel and haulage and damaging the environment to bring it to you," he says.

Because the wood is hand

cleaved along its natural growth, instead of being cut by a power saw in straight lines, it does not split. He curves the wood for chairbacks and arms by steaming it in the glade where it grew.

The term bodger, for someone who starts a job by making components, may have originated from the men who worked in the woods around High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire, making parts for the local furniture factories. The word could also be derived from "badger", a nickname for the men who lived in the woods.

The last of the original chair bodgers retired in the Fifties, Mr Wade says. Their work was hard and routine. In the Eighties, however, a new band of bodgers grew up, this time making the complete chair.

The son of a cabinet maker in Richmond upon Thames, Surrey, Mr Wade does not waste old pieces of wood, making garden dibbers for £2.50, babies' rattles at £4 and garden rakes at £15. His most expensive chair is the Welsh traditional stick back, at £300.

SANDY BISP

© Tim Wade. Ty Gwilym, Llari-fangell Bryn Fapan, Builth Wells, Powys. LD2 3SH (0597 89469).



Craftsman's pride: Tim Wade and one of his Windsor carver chairs

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But never jam tomorrow?

Parisians may have the answer to traffic snarls, but their tiny cars are not allowed on our roads, says Nicole Swengley

The stress value of running a car in the city will soon be greater than that of moving house or changing jobs. Apart from the worry about rising petrol prices, your car could be clamped or ticketed, stolen, bashed into or towed away minutes after a barely-inducing attempt to park in a tight space. But imagine a car so small it can ease through narrow spaces and park nose-on to the kerb, and so efficient it will do about 120 miles per gallon on cheap diesel fuel.

Tiny cars are not new. In the Fifties there were "bubble" cars, then the Mini, followed by Sir Clive Sinclair's attempt to conquer city jams with the ill-fated C5.

A visit to Paris will leave urban motorists yearning for the *voiturette* or *VSP* (*voitures sans permis* - no licence cars) which dart through traffic and park where no conventional car could. For example, the Aixam 325 measures only 8ft 5in long, by 4ft 4in wide (and high), and weighs under 6cwt.

Apart from these advantages, *voiturettes* can be driven in France by anyone over the age of 14 and by those who have lost their licence to drive a conventional car. They do not need licence plates, are not subject to a car tax, and insurance costs less than a quarter of the usual rate.

That these micro cars are finding favour with city people is hardly surprising, but they were developed during the Sixties as rural transport for older people in areas where public services were scarce. Their popularity rose during the oil crisis of 1973 and now they have become fashionable, with young professionals seizing on them as a practical and eco-friendly alternative to conventional cars.

Drawbacks include noisy diesel engines and hefty purchase prices, ranging from £5,000 to more than £7,000, but about a dozen companies in Paris are renting *voiturettes* for between £35 and £42 a day, plus a £250 to £400 deposit.

The cars can carry two passengers and reach speeds up to



Less stress? The tiny cars that dart in and out of traffic queues in Paris should ease motorists' frustrations, but they also have their drawbacks

45kph (28mph). Hot rod models, with a top speed of 75kph, require drivers to take the theory section of the French driving test. Like motorbikes, the cars are not allowed on motorways and *périphériques* (expressway by-passes).

Technically, *voiturettes* are simple. They have one, two or three-cylinder diesel engines with one forward gear and reverse. The body is usually made in polyester, reinforced with a tube steel frame, and interiors have upholstered, adjustable seats. Heating is standard. A moulded plastic dashboard has a speedometer and fuel gauge. The controls can be converted for handicapped people.

With the Gulf confrontation undermining anxieties about petrol prices and potential sources of new oil causing consternation among conservationists, it seems likely that sales of these micro cars will increase in Europe.

Martial Howa, the commercial director of Aixam Automobiles, a

manufacturer in Aix-les-Bains, eastern France, says: "We sold 4,200 last year and 3,000 so far this year. In France the market is growing at a rate of 4 per cent a year and we are exporting 15 per cent of production to Belgium, Switzerland, Germany and Greece."

So why have not we seen these cars on British roads? "We would like to sell to the United Kingdom, and have tried to," M Howa says. "But we have found no one to sell through."

Paul Stileman, the head of technical information at the Automobile Association, says there are stringent regulations in Britain concerning the introduction of new types of car, particularly over crash-testing.

Getting the necessary approval would require a huge financial investment, which many manufacturers would not find worth-

while because of the small profit margins on small cars.

Honda and Suzuki, which both have very small cars on sale in Japan, say it would not be economically viable to import these to Britain.

Trevor Elliott, the UK divisional manager for Honda, says: "If we imported cars such as Honda's 660cc Today from Japan it would impinge on the number of other imports we could bring into the country. But, in the medium term, I can see the possibility of building very small cars in Europe if the market for them existed."

Renault has on its drawing board a smaller car than any other in its range but Raymond Levy, the company president, says the deciding factor is whether this would be profitable to produce. If it goes ahead, the car will probably be available only on the continent.

Are micro cars the solution to city transport problems? Gavin Page, an independent car designer,

says: "These tiny cars are not a good idea. They are under-powered, expensive to buy and are only selling because of the tax loop-hole."

"They do not ease the traffic flow that much because stopping distances are the same no matter how small your car. Nor does lack of acceleration help."

"Even though they are easier to park in cities I do not believe they offer enough advantages to make them a worthwhile purchase. Anyone who wants a small car would be better off with, say, a Citroën AX or a Metro."

For further details contact: Aixam Automobiles, 56 Route de Pagny, 73100 Aix-les-Bains, France (010 33 79 61 42 45). Automobiles Bellier, Rue de la Petite-Gallière, BP 217, 85106 Les Sables-d'Orléans, France (010 33 51 90 27 27). Mardou, 54, Hameau-sur-Jour, 76150 Offreville, France (010 33 35 94 36 12). Microcar Automobiles, Société Jeanneau, BP 83, 85503 Les Herbiers, France (010 33 51 91 06 10).

The national elf service

Help: Denise Katz, organiser

THIS is the time of year when most of us are compiling Christmas lists, buying cards and presents and planning the seasonal food and entertainment. But busy people can find it difficult to give such preparations the attention they require, and end up frantically searching for stocking fillers and crackers on Christmas eve.

Denise Katz, who runs the Creative Organising Service, is adding what she hopes will become a regular Christmas package to a range of services which have made her, she says, "the only British member of the American National Association of Professional Organisers".

Miss Katz, with the help of her three full-time assistants (and anyone else who may need to be enlisted) will undertake to do anything from ordering the turkey and trimming the tree to choosing the presents. She will even write your thank you letters or return unwanted gifts.

Miss Katz's services are expensive. She usually charges £300 for a six-hour day of reorganising wardrobes or teaching more effective time management. But for about £500 (plus expenses) she offers a package she believes will take the hurry out of Christmas.

That might involve her going through your address book and family list to discover how many cards you require, buying them - or commissioning an artist to create them specially - and producing neatly typed, self-addressed labels, a double set, so you will have one ready for next year.

"I will arrange them in piles of family, friends, colleagues, so you can sign 'Love' or 'Best Wishes' or whatever is appropriate, and then I'll send them, having taken care to buy exactly the right number of stamps," she says.

Miss Katz, whose own obsessively orderly qualities drove her into her business, will discuss your Christmas present, food and drink requirements and make arrangements to buy them at the appropriate time. This could involve going to the stores with a client or doing the shopping herself using her own initiative and ingenuity.

"I much prefer shopping with a creative brief than simply searching for a particular item," she says. "But, in either case, I shop in a systematic, time-effective way having first sussed out a store so I

know where everything is and drawing up detailed lists so there is the minimum of wasted time and effort."

She will buy the gift-wrapping (making sure to get exactly the right amount, of course) and ensure there are the correct number and types of batteries for the children's gifts.

She can obtain staff to ensure your Christmas entertaining will flow smoothly, but if that is not in your budget she will, by enlisting the services of family and friends, draw up plans for keeping the children occupied. She will choose your tableware, napkins and candles, select your Christmas



Problem solver: Denise Katz wreaths and lights and even deck the halls with boughs of holly.

Miss Katz, aged 40, is a former Marks & Spencer employee, single, and totally dedicated to her job. She admits she tends to rely rather heavily on the M & S food hall, but she will happily shop anywhere her clients suggest and search out new and unusual types of Christmas fare.

She can, she says, work within a strict budget, thereby saving you a substantial part of her fee, but she is even happier to be given carte blanche. If clients do not wish to hire her on a package basis, she will charge for individual assignments. Indeed, not being a parent herself, she seems to feel there is no task that cannot be delegated: she will even, she suggests, take your children to see Father Christmas in the grotto.

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The Irish dig in on treasure

Despite harsh penalties, the republic's law's on treasure trove are flouted, and curators are turning detective, says Sarah Jane Checkland

The Republic of Ireland authorities have got tough on treasure trove. Having tightened the law so that, unlike England and Wales, the state is entitled without argument to all treasure found on its soil, the National Museum of Ireland's curators have turned vigilantes, working closely with detectives to bring back items excavated and exported.

Because of the rich pickings involved, the effort has been successful. "Museum officials have been subject to threats and attempts at bribery," says Dr Eamonn Kelly, a curator with the national museum. Meanwhile, the international Metal Detectors Society has invested £250,000 in a legal fund to protect its interests. Last week, the Irish authorities sent ripples of dismay through the British art world by claiming two items based in London: a pair of cannons bought by the Royal Armories for £3,250 in the Seventies and now worth £30,000, and an early bronze age collar being offered for sale at about £20,000 by a client of Christie's.

On show in the Tower of London, the 16th century cannon by the British makers John and Robert Owen was, its display label says, recovered from an unidentified wreck off the Irish coast. "I am reasonably confident it was raised off the Waterford coast," Dr Kelly says. "A police enquiry is in train into a number of cannon."

Graham Rimer, a curator at the Tower, says: "There was no skullduggery. It has never been established where the cannons came from, whether the Irish or Sussex coast."

Had the guns not been bought by the Armories, he says, the British art dealer who sold them, D.R. Petty, of Harpenden, Hertfordshire, could have meted them down because of lack of interest from the market.

Of the early bronze age, sheet-gold lunula, or crescentic collar, Dr Kelly says: "We have been tracking it down since it was found

in the Irish Republic in 1975." After attempts to dispose of it within the republic, it went to the United Kingdom two years ago, turning up now at Christie's, he says, adding: "The file has been sent to our attorney-general."

Christie's insists that it is not representing the vendor, but was approached by her simply for a valuation. "The owner of this thing has been dealing with a museum," a spokesman says. "She wanted a second opinion on the value and came to us."

By Irish law, an export licence must be obtained for the removal of all archaeological objects, but until 1987 the fine was only £50.

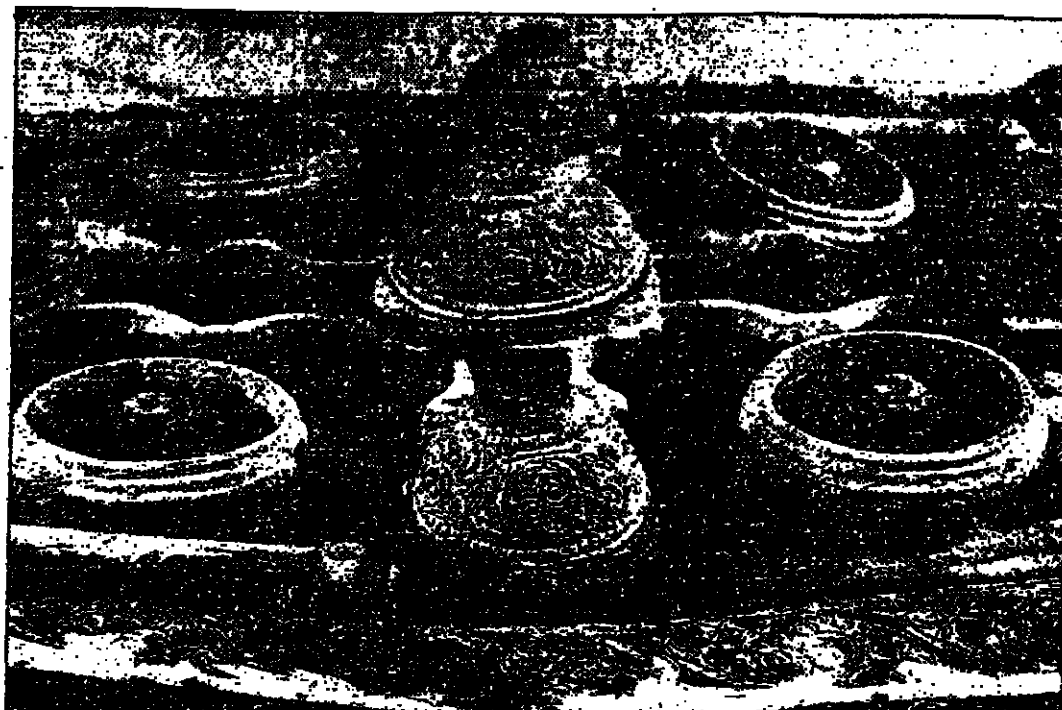
With the boom in cheap metal detectors in the Seventies, treasure hunting became a leading international pursuit, on land and at sea. With much of the wrecked Spanish armada lying along the Waterford coast, there are rich pickings.

"The treasure hunters were tied into a network of dealers," Dr Kelly says. "The main outlet was London." There was obviously also an element of opportunism among individuals as the hobby developed its own cachet. Prospective buyers advertised in treasure-hunting magazines, such as *Searcher*, which is available in Britain and the Irish Republic. They also used official lists of protected monuments.

One method of shaking off claims was to change provenances for the bronze-age swords and Viking bracelets being sent to Britain, or to say items were found in Northern Ireland.

Taking decisive action in 1987, the authorities increased the penalty was increased in 1987 to £50,000 and a year's imprisonment, and banned the use of metal detectors.

By contrast, English law states that if finders of treasure trove declare finds promptly and properly, they can expect their finds to be returned, or to receive an award equivalent to the market value. Also in 1987, the Irish supreme court overruled claims by two British treasure hunters, Michael Webb and his son, also



This 8th century book shrine was intercepted by Irish officials after attempts were made to sell it in England



Officials believe these 16th century cannons, on show in the Tower of London, were raised off the Irish coast

called Michael, on a £5.25 million board they had found at Derrynish. The decision was that the material — chalices and the like — was state property under article two of the Irish constitution.

The government initiative left the way open for a series of successful claims by the state, including the 8th century Lough Kinsale book shrine, found in the summer of 1986 on the bed of a loch in County Longford. It is the earliest and largest such wooden box decorated with a series of ornamental bronze mountings yet

discovered. Irish officials intercepted it after efforts were made to sell in Britain.

A 16th century cannon found this year by divers off Cape Clear Island, County Cork, and taken by car to England, was claimed last July following a tip-off from a Manchester museum. Last month, a museum in Weston-super-Mare, Avon, voluntarily returned some bone samples which had been in its possession for 80 years. Tactics to dissuade looters included an attack in 1987 by An Taisce, the Irish equivalent of the National

Trust on a Sotheby's advertisement asking for gravestones and statues as "an invitation to plunder", while in 1989 the Irish Office of Public Works wrote to the state solicitor seeking a ban on the *Searcher*.

Because resistance to Irish law persists, Dr Kelly hopes the issue will be discussed at the forthcoming Anglo-Irish conference. He wants a cultural agreement whereby material which has been proved to have been illegally exported must be returned without any arguments.

As guilty as a discarded sock

A burglar's cast-off footwear has provided a lead into the specialist world of the art thief

WAYNE SPART had a less than satisfactory career snatching handbags until he met a fellow guest of Her Majesty who promised fresh opportunities. Eustace Fagin invited Mr Spart (not his real name) to his home where, instead of being offered advice on coshes and bags marked swag, Mr Spart found himself in a sizeable gathering equipped with pens and paper and seated before a slide screen. Mr Fagin then delivered an inspiring lecture on antique pottery and porcelain, and ended his talk by handing out *Cushion and Honey*, the definitive book on porcelain marks.

The following week Mr Fagin explained silverware, (including useful details on dating by assay marks), the next week furniture, and so on until graduation day, when Mr Fagin launched his alumni into the world.

Mr Spart had not inadvertently enrolled at the Sotheby's or Christie's fine art courses. He was being groomed to join an expanding band of specialist art thieves. His story was told by the loss adjuster John Suter, of Davies & Company, at last weekend's art theft conference in Plymouth. Amid relentlessly gloomy statistics (more than a million premises burgled in 1989, with more forecast due to a combination of the recession and 1992 and only a 5 per cent recovery rate) two things became clear: the population must become more careful about their security arrangements, and the best trackers of stolen art are not the police, but those with a financial incentive, such as loss adjusters like Mr Suter.

Loss adjusters also have ample opportunity to observe the behavioural patterns and psychology of their prey.

Mr Spart and his fellows divide them into three divisions:

● Top of the league are the sophisticated gangs, run by receivers. They plan their projects down to every last detail, with specialists on reconnaissance, security and packing. The receiver pays — 10 per cent of the true market value — only when he has checked that everything on his list is present and has not been damaged.

● Next are the organised opportunists, who set off of a morning from, say, Plymouth, making for a suitably well-heeled area. They cruise around until they detect

tell-tale signs that premises are temporarily unoccupied. A garage door is left open, perhaps, or newspapers are lying on the front doorstep. The most personable member then walks boldly to the front door and knocks. If someone answers, he has an excuse ready, such as: "I am an antique dealer living in the area, is there anything you would like to sell?" or "I see the drive needs tarmacking, would you like us to do it?" If no one answers the door, he then starts looking through the windows and breaks in. Soon the gang



is roaming the house, using suitcases and pillows to carry the valuables away.

● The final category is the "Raffles" character, as Mr Suter calls him, who operates alone. Mr Spart became a "creeper" working only at night. He was knowledgeable enough to ensure that if his masked torch highlighted a fake piece of Meissen he would put it back, but he was let down by his hallmark — a pair of woolen socks that he pulled over his boots before entering a house. Once outside, Mr Spart would bury the stolen goods until the coast was clear but he had a habit of throwing his socks aside and they were picked up by the police. "When they turned them inside out, they found the mud from his boots, left like fingerprints," Mr Suter says.

S. J. C.

Memorabilia

Any old iron lady?

JUST as the demise of great public figures is often followed by their apotheosis, souvenirs in their name soon become sought-after collectables. The problem with Margaret Thatcher is that her personality has never been of much inspiration to this particular industry. Followers preferred to demonstrate their loyalty in different ways than by buying tea services decorated with Mrs Thatcher's face.

But apart from signed photographs, which retail at about £30, the rare tributes such as the Staffordshire caricature jugs and mugs produced in the mid-Eighties are unfashionable, featuring a meat-cleaver nose. The current favourite is a rubber Spitting Image puppet on sale at Hamleys and motorway service stations for £1.99.

The lack of supplies is good news for anyone who actually did collect souvenirs during Mrs Thatcher's 11 and a half years as prime minister. As her contribution becomes more apparent, they could find there are sitting on lasting national assets.

Whoever paid the paltry £8 for a caricature mug at Bonhams auctioneers in London back in 1988 should perhaps increase his house insurance, as should the buyer of the £40 kitsch candleholder



Market force at Longleat: the Marquess of Bath with part of his collection of Thatcherware

featuring Mrs Thatcher and Arthur Scargill at loggerheads, and he who paid £38 for a bone china mug bearing pictures of David Steel, James Callaghan and Mrs Thatcher, after the 1979 general election. Ironically, items produced in passionate opposition to Mrs Thatcher's policies, such as miners' strike mugs produced in south Wales in 1984, could become the best investments of all. The mugs, featuring images of young families lingering at the pit head, carried slogans asking for Britain's support. Such mugs might take some finding, but their price is currently low.

The big question is whether Thatcher memorabilia will

take its place alongside that of Churchill, whose commemorative buildings and character mugs far outstrip the market performance of any other 20th century politician, with prices rising to £2,000. In her favour, Mrs Thatcher has the duration of her premiership, her long string of battles, both abroad and against the "enemy within", and the fact that she was the first woman prime minister. Suffragette memorabilia sells at a premium, and Mrs Thatcher memorabilia may enter that category.

Still, Mrs Thatcher has inspired many more commemorative tributes than Edward Heath, whose only tribute, according to Eric Knowles of

Bonhams, was a gurgling toy. Luckiest investor of all is the anonymous person who paid £480 at Christie's South Kensington five years ago for a children's book produced for the Save the Children's Fund. Apart from featuring a cartoon by Babette Cole of the prime minister as a cleaning lady, wearing a Union Jack apron and dusting a classical bust, the book contains a poem by her, summing up her attitude to life.

"It is easy to be a star. But are you a sticker too? It is easy enough to begin a job. It is harder to see it through." S.J.C.

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Review

● **Amazing Mayan:** Two limestone zoomorphs, representing Mayan deities and once used as sacred weights for codices, broke the record of \$214,500 for PreColumbian art when they fetched \$253,000 (£128,361) at Sotheby's in New York, paid by an American dealer.

Price leap: An early 17th century Japanese writing box, attributed to Hon'ami Kotoe, was sold by Guiseppe Iskerni, the London dealer, to a European collector for £350,000. The price compares with the recent auction record of £116,000 for a lacquer box.

Highest fee: The so-called *Nicola Stradivarius* violin was unsold after failing to attract bids of more than £20,000 at Sotheby's auction, despite an ambitious estimate of up to £1 million. Vined instrument: The *Mendelssohn Stradivarius* violin

which, at £902,000, broke the world record for a musical instrument at Christie's, despite an estimate of £600,000.

Preview

Monday: At 10.30am and 2pm Christie's South Kensington offers clocks, watches and barometers. At 11am, in Bedford, Spencer's begins its main autumn sale of furniture, pictures, silver, porcelain and works of art, ranging in size from a gig or a four-poster bed to earrings. In Sussex, Sotheby's is offering a Whickton-type group of ladies' in a bower, could make £25,000. In London, Christie's has silver and objects of vertu at 10.30am, including some special coconuts at up to £6,000 each. They are carved and splendidly mounted in silver, dating from about 1600. The manuscript sale at 11am and 2.30pm has a magnificent *Book of Hours* circa 1530 (up to £300,000).

Tuesday: Sales of medals at Christie's, 10am and 2.30pm, and icons at 10.30am. Phillips has 19th century European paintings, notably a newly discovered student work by the Romanticist C D Friedrich (up to £150,000). In Glasgow, Christie's offers Wemyss ware at 11am, and in Somerset Bonhams has a part-contents

sale at Halswell House, Glastonbury, at noon.

Tuesday and Wednesday: Daily sessions at 10.30am and 2pm of Furniture, European and Oriental, ceramics and works of art at Sotheby's Sussex.

Wednesday: In Torquay Beane's has Oriental and European ceramics and glass at 10am. An appealing Whickton-type group of ladies' in a bower, could make £25,000. In London, Christie's has silver and objects of vertu at 10.30am, including some special coconuts at up to £6,000 each. They are carved and splendidly mounted in silver, dating from about 1600. The manuscript sale at 11am and 2.30pm has a magnificent *Book of Hours* circa 1530 (up to £300,000).

Friday: In Pezzenec, at 10.30am, W H Lane offers pictures and prints and in London there is Continental furniture at Sotheby's, 11am and 2.30pm.

● **Spencer's, 20 The Square, Bedford, North (0777-708633):** Christie's, King Street, St James's (071-839 9060): Christie's, South Kensington, 85 Old Brompton Road, SW7 (071-581 7671): Christie's, Scotland, 164/166 Bath Street, Glasgow G2 (041-332 8134): Sotheby's, 35 New Bond Street (071-493-8080): Sotheby's, St James's Place, Westminster (0403-783033): Phillips, 101 New Bond Street (071-629 6602): Beane's, Rainbow, Avenue Road, Torquay (0803-296277).

BRIEFING

Cannons on the square

RUSSIAN celebrations of the 150th anniversary of Tchaikovsky's birth reach a clamorous climax in Leningrad next Saturday. A star-packed concert includes Jesse Norman (never seen in the Soviet Union before), Izhak Perlman, Yo-Yo Ma, the Leningrad Philharmonic — and the ultimate performance of Tchaikovsky's 1812 overture. The mayor of Leningrad, Anatoly Sobchak, has agreed to close the Square of the Artists for the evening so that while the orchestra plays 1812 in the adjacent hall, outside there will be a cacophony of cannons, fireworks and all the church-bells in the city. The American TV producer Peter Gelb is responsible for this extravaganza, which will be broadcast to three continents.

The big sleep

LOOKING for a different sort of Christmas gift? Try the video that is released next week: *John and Yoko's Montreal Bed-In of 1969*. The video discreetly edits that famous piece of history — from seven days to 75 minutes — but does include visits by Timothy Leary and other luminaries of that idealistic age.



Yoko Ono and John Lennon

Sidehead

THE 500th anniversary of Columbus's voyage to America in 1492 is causing great friction in the film business. In one corner are Alexander and Ilya Salkind, the father-and-son producers responsible for the *Superman* movies. They have been planning their Columbus movie for Universal Studios (scripted by *The Godfather* writer, Mario Puzo) since 1985, and are in cahoots with the Spanish quinquenary authorities over the building of a replica fleet of 15th-century ships. In the other corner (and now the target of a \$40 million lawsuit from the Salkinds) is the director Ridley Scott and his Columbus film project. Scott was originally approached by Salkind and Salkind to direct their film. They split four months later, by which time (the Salkinds claim) the English director had had access to "confidential documents".

Another chance...

BUOYED by her recent triumph at the Dominion Theatre, Shirley MacLaine is bringing her song, dance and chat show back to Britain in the spring. It will return to the Dominion Theatre (February 12 to 17), then visit the Apollo, Manchester (February 19-20) and the Playhouse, Edinburgh (February 22-23).

THEATRE: NEW YORK

Shipwrecked in Times Square

As the monumental *Shogun* takes a critical pasting, Charles Bremner assesses the odds stacked against the big-budget new musical surviving the casino economics of Broadway

If the shades of Cole Porter, Richard Rodgers or any of the old showmen are around New York this season, they must be wondering what happened to the verve and originality that was once the hallmark of the Broadway musical. For a start, they would probably check their calendars, since most of the American-made shows on the Great White Way, from last year's *Gypsy* and *Grand Hotel* to David Merrick's lavish new working of Gertrude's *Oh, Kay!* hark back to reassuring, gentler times. Topol is even appearing again in a new staging of his 1964 role in *Fiddler on the Roof*, and a revived *Peter Pan* is due by Christmas.

But for the saddest glimpse of the state of their own art, they would look no further than the Marquis, the plush 1980s theatre-within-a-theatre that dominates the wasteland of hustlers, muggers and tourists that is now Times Square. This is the venue for *Shogun* — the Musical, the only brand-new American production this year. It is a behemoth replete with 75 tons of computer-driven scenery and a cost of about \$8 million dollars (£4.1 million), all conceived as America's answer to the British invasion.

"If you can't beat 'em, join 'em," seems to have been the producers' credo as they hammered together all the ingredients to be found in the blockbusters of Lloyd Webber and Jean-Michel Schoenberg, the fathers of Broadway's biggest money-spinner of the past few years. Bad luck dogged the project from its beginnings eight years ago, when James Clavell first thought of putting his epic novel of ancient Japan on the musical stage. After a disastrous run in Washington, a heavily edited version was struggling through previews in New York when a piece of falling scenery knocked out Philip Canino, the American leading man brought in at the last minute to replace Peter Karrie as the English sea-captain who is shipwrecked in Japan in 1598.

If they gave Tony awards for

effort, this earnest musical would be a winner. The score by Paul Chihara, an Asian-American composer, and the lyrics by Philip Driver strive desperately to blend the complexities of medieval Japanese politics with the pseudo-operatic pop of the British hits. The programme even boasts a Japanese glossary and a synopsis that reads like a cross between soap opera and a State Department briefing. The costumes are worthy of a place in the Smithsonian museum and the staging is as polished as Broadway's best.

In contrast with *Miss Saigon*, most of the cast is of Asian origin, including June Angela, who plays Princess Mariko, the leading lady, and Francis Ruivivar, as the rotund warlord, Toronaga. But put together, with all its shipwrecks, battles, earthquakes and jarring sex scenes, the ensemble is an embarrassing symphony of kitsch that has sent even charitable critics guffawing into their word-processors.

Clive Barnes in the *New York Post* mused: "It is amazing what a really skilled director can do with this." He added that *Shogun* was a good case for Noel Coward's celebrated question: "Why must the show go on?" At best, he said, it could be compared with Lloyd Webber or Schoenberg "at their not inconsiderable worst".

"It has bits of virtually everything stuffed into it," said John Simon of *New York Magazine*. But, he felt, it was redeemed by the fact that "some sort of perverse curiosity keeps flickering on even as comprehension fails by the wayside." "Shogun" is driven, but it's not in the least driven, said Linda Winer of *Newsday*, who thought the show's "asinine" score sounded like something played at a Jewish wedding.

Frank Rich, the all-powerful critic of the *New York Times*, who is known as the "Butcher of Broadway", damned it with his usual scorn, although not as fiercely as he usually demolishes Lloyd Webber. The songs "might as well be piped in from *Aspects of Love* around the corner," he noted. One scene looked like a

Japanese politics and British-style pop: Francis Ruivivar as the warlord Toronaga in *Shogun — the Musical*, which has faced press attacks

"Trump casino edition" of *The King and I*, the earthquake reminded him of *Godzilla* and the Portuguese Jesuits and other villains "all seem to be refugees from a Gilbert and Sullivan tour of the provinces".

Even for a non-specialist correspondent making an effort to keep an open mind, it was near impossible to make sense of the byzantine plot, in which much of the huge cast is sliced to shreds in battle or by *seppuku* (ritual suicide). And given the scenery with which the show takes itself, it is hard not to goggle at lines such as "Saké is good for you/So much better than *seppuku*", or the refrain from "Born to be Together", the show's big love-song: "One part you, one part me." At moments, it seemed as if the Monty Python crew had been paid \$8 million to have fun in a New York theatre.

The critical demolition may not

kill *Shogun*, since word of mouth and heavy television advertising often override bad reviews when it comes to the big spectacles on which Broadway increasingly depends for its livelihood. Not all is gloom by any means this year. *Assassins*, a new Southend about the lives of famous murderers, is opening in the New Year; several high quality plays, such as *Six Degrees of Separation*, are drawing good audiences; even Shakespeare still sells when played by big names such as Dustin Hoffman.

Off-Broadway is doing well and, in a symptom of the nostalgia born of recession, cabaret is once again popular in the city's night clubs and restaurants. But when it comes to the musical, the romantic and stylish genre that was born in New York, huge costs are narrowing the options for producers. They can revive safe old favourites like *Oh, Kay!*, simulate nostalgia with look-alikes of old hits such as *Cry of Angels*, import pre-fabricated transatlantic hits

like this season's *Buddy* and the forthcoming *Miss Saigon*, or fight back with the techno-dazzle of such works as *Shogun*.

Only one in four productions merely breaks even. With the costs of some musicals reaching the level of film production, it can take years before they turn a clear profit. "Now you are a big hit overnight or you close down," said Rocco Landesman, president of the Jujamcyn chain, one of the three companies which own most Broadway theatres. Some would-be blockbusters are so contrived that they never even reach Broadway. This was the case with *Annie II*, the long-awaited sequel scrapped in the provinces by producers who felt the risk of a New York production did not justify the price. They are still working on another version. Elizabeth McCann, a producer of *Orpheus Descending*, *Elephant Man* and *Amadeus*, lamented to the *New York Times* recently that there was little room left for innovation:

"We must start with the assumption that the audience is dumb."

Over the past year or so, the theatre-owners and producers have been working on alternatives to the casino-like economics of Broadway. Last summer the unions, producers and owners agreed on a two-tier system in which everyone would work for reduced rates at three Broadway theatres as a way of encouraging new plays. Musicals do not qualify for the arrangement.

Other producers are trying to promote first-rate shows at suburban venues. The venerable Hal Prince, for example, is working with an enterprise called New Musicals at the State University of New York (SUNY). A show there with top flight cast will cost about a quarter of what it would on Broadway. "I love Broadway," Prince said. "I just don't like the way it is now." One of SUNY's new productions, *The Secret Garden*, is being tipped as a likely Broadway smash for next year.

CONCERT

CSO/Wolff
Town Hall,
Birmingham

apparently includes at least one musical reminiscence from the Himalayas, besides having a clear-cut sonic magnificence that might (as with Messiaen) suggest mountain landscapes. But perhaps its predominant connection is with the music of Bali, which Levinson has studied on the spot.

The orchestra includes a tuned percussion section of tubular bells, celesta, piano and so on, a section which is as important as any other. Moreover, the music is distinctly layered, as in Balinese, or indeed western medieval style, with bass lines moving slowly and treble parts racing. Yet these essentially

static textures, and the block-form, somehow become the vehicle for a continuous process lasting almost half an hour and justifying the subtitle "Symphony No 1", even if there is very little here that Brahms would have recognised as symphonic.

In part the process is simply one of deceleration, from a state of jubilation, with wild celebratory flourishes from a quartet of oboes, to the heaving repeated cadences of the ending. But the arrival appears also to be harmonically motivated, and to signal a larger harmony of eastern and western musical thought. This performance, distinguished as much by warm string melodies as by vivid work from the oboes, brass and percussion, brought out the de-casiveness with which Levinson moves in two worlds at once.

PAUL GRIFFITHS

A REVIVAL of *The Lesson* gives a strong start to Northern Ballet Theatre's new programme for the autumn tour. Flemming Flindt's adaptation of the Ionesco play into a dance drama may be one of the few examples of choreography improving on a literary original: the action and its melodramatic ending make more sense in the physical terms of a ballet teacher manipulating his pupil. The insistent rhythms of Georges Delerue's score cleverly use the banalities of a ballet classroom to drive the action along.

The central role could take more power than Jeremy Kerndge gives it, but he dances strongly and brings out well the timid fastidiousness of the man before he gets carried away by Jane Regan and Vinciane Chyssaens, given fool-proof roles as the pupil and the pianist, perform them with relish.

Ronald Hynd's frothy *Liaisons*

DANCE

Northern Ballet
Orchard, Dartford

Amoureuises, to Carl Davis's arrangement of music by Offenbach, provides a contrasting mood at the other end of the evening. Between these, the programme ambitiously offers no fewer than four classic duets in varied styles — more varied, in fact, than the programme credits suggest, since the romantic episode from *Swan Lake* has choreography by Ivanov, not Petipa.

The latter is represented by two numbers both much adapted over the years. Lorena Vidal and William Walker give a good account of themselves in the show-piece from *The Corsair*, and Peter Parker brings a certain dash

to the *Don Quixote* excerpt, partnering Jayne Regan's secure Kurt.

Particularly attractive is the duet from Bournonville's *Flower Festival at Genzano*. It is given in a more authentic version than we sometimes see (the producing hand of Vivi Flindt, who also staged *The Lesson*, is detectable) and danced with both charm and panache by Joanne de Souza and Stephen Walther.

Several of these dancers, and others who share the roles, are either new to the company or newly brought to prominence. This programme represents the best results yet seen from Christopher Gable's wish to develop young talent, besides being entertaining in its own right, with a specially lavish décor by Peter Docherty for the Offenbach gaiety.

JOHN PERCIVAL

ON MONDAY

Geoff Brown on the discoveries of the London Film Festival; and Harry Eyres on the English Shakespeare Company tour

How the stories became a mediocre menagerie

HAS Cameron Mackintosh really convinced himself that this frolic is the spanking new musical that has been hunting? If so, the wily Rikiki-tiki-tavi of our theatre must have lost keeness of eye and bite. George Siles and Anthony Drewe's adaptation of Kipling's *Just So* Christmas treat for the Kilburn young, but it hardly has the substance to survive in the West End playhouse to which Mackintosh hopes to transfer it.

The show opens with Gary Bond's Kipling transforming himself into a magician, complete with raffish top hat and frizzy voice, by way of answering an inquisitive boy's Rudyardesque question: "How do I become a man?" He guides the youngsters, still played by Richard Henders but now transformed into his production, into a grey-blazered Elephant's Child, through Africa to his rendezvous with the Crocodile. As in the original, this creature pulls his nose into a trunk, here a long sticking protruding from his cap. As we had come to fear, this odd event symbolises the arrival of maturity. As we might also have expected, it is preceded by Kipling's *If*, solemnly sung by Bond.

This gives the show shape and unity, but not tension. The ending is predictable, and the adventures before it are not hugely arresting in themselves, or true to Kipling. There is a comic boxing match between the Kangaroo and a Dingo Dog, who looks like a cross between a punk and Ken Dodd, but it hardly explains how marsupials learned to hop.

Again, the authors include the story in which the Parsee (ebullient Clive Rowe) punishes the greedy Rhino (Martyo Ellis's big, boorish, Goordie) by slipping crumbs

THEATRE
Just So
Tricycle, Kilburn

under his skin. But then they reconcile the combatants, sparsely turning hatred into propaganda for friendship. Along with courage, responsibility and much else, that is one of the virtues learned by the Elephant's Child. The chum he impulsively (and uncaringly) rescues from the Leopard, Lizi Hately's wain, timid Kokokoto Bird, ends up similarly educated.

Yet this bland didacticism does not sink a show often good to watch and hear. Mike Ockrent has not given his cast whiskers, animal masks or other zoological features. In other words, they might have stumbled from Kensington market, having grabbed feathers, frills, striped cocktail dresses, tattered jackets, and striped pyjama tops for trousers.

Combined with simple décor — a makeshift tree stuck here; vines, fronds and (weirdly) Japanese parasols dangling there — this gives the show an informal, improvised

Lizi Hately in *Just So*

look which helps excuse its narrative inadequacies. And Siles's music? There are references, often comic, to Sullivan, Mozart, silent-movie hark-tunes, calypso, music hall, *South Pacific* and early Lloyd Webber, but only in a couple of solo numbers, notably the rueful, pretty *Wau a Bi*, is a distinctive talent evident. Yet that is worth encouraging. So are Drewe's jolly, sometimes deft, lyrics. Mackintosh has not found achievement, but he has uncovered promise.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

THE SUNDAY TIMES
Plowright's progress

"There is something regal about Miss Joan Plowright, in the lift of her head and the set of her mouth — but the impression is subverted by her posh-northern voice. You suddenly realise whom she reminds you of: the Queen Mother as redone by Mollie Sugden on Spitting Image."

John Walsh, in *The Sunday Times* tomorrow.

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DIRECTED BY RIZA RUSSEK
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5.20 The Flying Doctors. Underrated Australian series about the lives of the doctors in a remote area.

3.20 The Flying Doctors. Local Australian series about TV service Geoff and Kate who travel and discover one secrets, while Vic and Kate something about justice.

6.05 The Noel Edmonds Saturday Roadshow. There's a offering for guests Christmas, Timothy, Trevor Brooking, Holmes, including video game.

6.50 The Second Step. A British prequel quiz show that battle against the clock for prizes.

7.25 Challenges Annika. More games for Annika Rice. Challenges track to track down Annika through the world. The series has 74 minutes of Brylcre, friends and relatives on neighboring levels of Sally and told was for 1985.

8.15 Film: The Money Pit (1986). The film of Shirley Lay, acceptable remake of the Grant-Tynne Lay comedy. Builds *He Dream House*, successful couple who sink into a ramshackle property that turns out to be full of the huge bats roll in and out that the place is never go their plans for it, they release tells apart - only margins house done. Directed by Steven Seiden.

9.45 News with Michael Bunkin. weather

Shelley Long and Tom Hanks (8.15pm)

10.05 Ben Elton: The Man from Auntie.
The man with the scarily realistic view of life returns with re-runs from his first series (r)

10.35 Snooker. David Vine introduces action from the closing frames of today's two fifth round matches in the Stormless UK championships, from the Guild Hall, Preston

11.50 Film: Up the Front (1972) Frankie Howard, Les Gabor and Gill Fraser star in a classic and well-loved comic about a reluctant soldier, Private Lark (Howard), who has a German master plan tattooed on his backside. Directed by Bob Kellett

1.15am Weather

7.25 Beedle's About. The nuisance turns up once

7.25 Beeble's About the Un-
naisance turns up once
delight of some and the
many

7.55 Frederick Forsyth Pres-
has a Bad Reputation
of Frederick Forsyth here
by the title of his new
spy thrillers and the new
the Jachal from Forsyth
story may smack of des-
troyer's tale, while off
Elizabeth Hurley of *Cher*
Carole has been seen in
Italy although the evi-
dence suggests that he is dead
returns from last week.

9.50 News with Sue Carpenter
weather 10.05 LWT live
10.10 Fred the Godfather
* CHOICE: The Godfather
disolves at the Oxford
rumped veteran takes
students and wins by a
title Heading is meat
"Excuse me", he says,
hour of this. Try to recon-
yourself". Even the re-
of the new Howard Stern
thought you were dead
Undergraduates who we
when Howard first went
microphone relish the ce-
as if they were being he
time The point about his
is that it is essentially in-
and little bit of a re-
that has strong Allen
comedian come and go
Howard goes on for ever



little too long, even for the most fervent Howard admirer, and the material sagged a bit in the middle. But for at least half the show he is in prime form. And when that happens, there are still few equals.

11.10 World Championship Boxing. Brian's Hanoi Graham and Julian Jackson of the United States battle for the WBC world middleweight championship at the Torremorada Hotel, Benalmadena, Spain.

11.55 Philip Marlowe: Private Eye. Powers Boothe stars as the hard-boiled detective.

12.55sm Golf - PGA Tour 80. The RMCC Invitational. Followed by News headlines.

1.55 The Time Tunnel. The two time-travellers find themselves outside the walls of Jericho waiting for a trumpet (V).

2.55 A morning of... Football. West Virginia vs Penn State.

4.00 The Hit Man and Her

5.00 ITN Morning News with Phil Roman. Ends at 6.00


4.40 Film: Ra – The Path of God (1990) Lesley Keen

4.40 Film: Ra – The Path of God (1930) Lesley Kean, screened in three parts, on ancient Egyptian beliefs of creation. This episode of Genesis story of Omea's battle with evil.

5.10 Brookside Omnibus (r).

6.30 Right To Reply presents Hayes

7.00 The World This Week looks at the Thatcher era and for what follow. Weather



Scouting Myths Induced: Role

8.00 Adventures: Revenge of Gods.

● **CHOICE** Rosie Swale profile adventure who m... with a voyage around Ca... sailed the Atlantic angle... covered the length of Ch... horseback. Here she trav... Honduras to Guatemala... in search of the Maya Ind... year old civilization which... largely disappeared. From... boist, bus and horse, Swa... fairly convincing display... although we only know that... camera crew is all that... they also sleep in a hamm... covered by a mosquito net... camp life? Television is... break its own rules and n... tell us. What it does s... remains of an ancient May... have been six times the



8.00 *Adventures: Revenge of the Rain Gods* **CHOICE** Rosie Swale is the high-profile adventurer who made her name with a voyage around Cape Horn, sailed the Atlantic single-handed and covered the length of Chile on horseback. Here she travels from Honduras to the jungles of Mexico in search of the Maya Indians, a 1,000-year-old civilization which has now largely disappeared. Proceeding by boat, bus and horse, Swale gives a fairly convincing display of roughing it, although we all know that the camera crew is only a few feet away. Do they also sleep in a hammock covered by a mosquito net and cook on a camp fire? Television is unwilling to break its own illusion and therefore will not let the viewer discover the means of an ancient Maya city, said to have been six times the size of

classical Rome, and equally ancient wall paintings, to which Swale in an enthusiastic but never gusting guide
9.00 **LA Law.** *Poached drama in a turgid*
and over-the-top vein.
10.00 **Four-Nations UK.** *Stages of the*
1. A series of five programmes
examining aspects of new British
animation with interviews and extracts.
They are introduced by one of the
*creators of *Spiriting Away*, Roger Lamb.*
Tonight's edition is devoted to work
from this generation of warm humanists.
It features Joanna Quinn, Sarah
Kennedy, Emma Calder and includes
the premieres of Candy Guard's
*films *AloneAgain*, *The Wrong Typewriter**
What about Me *David French is the guest*
10.30 **Film.** *Tiny Endings* (1988)
CH **CHOICE.** *Continuing its build-up*
to World AIDS Day on December 1.
Channel 4 presents a new feature by
*Harvey Fierstein of *Touch-Sense Trilogy**
in which two people close to an AIDS
victim pour out their emotions. One,
played by Fierstein himself, is the
dead man's lover, the other (Brookland
Channing) his former wife. As they
meet to sort out the effect-of-the-dead
Condon, both try to claim himself their
own and their own and each other's
collisions. In what is virtually a two-
hander, the gravel-voiced Fierstein has
the more showy part, first venting
the lover's bitterness and aggression
then softening as he describes
Colin's final moments. Obligated for the
most part to act as the foil, Channing
is no less effective. Offered as a plea for
*understanding, *Tiny Endings* is*
eventually backed by a beautiful score.
The American television version was
adapted by Fierstein from his play and
directed by Britain's Gavin Maltby.
11.30 **The Week** with Jonathan Ross. *A*
compilation of the week's chat shows
12.05am **Snoops.** *More comic exorcism*
with the adventure-prone couple,
starring Tim Rice and Daphne
Mossall.
1.00 **The Word** includes an interview with
Whorou (Guthrie) on Francis at 2.00

which located the wreck of Monitor, an American civil

which located the wreck of the *Monitor*, an American civil war battleship (Czechoslovakia)

2.45 **Mahabharat**. Episodes 28 and 29: a personification of India and England fight a battle (India)

2.55 **28.28** **Film: The Enchanted Coat** (1945, b/w). Eland and a crew of a charming, cross-maged which works its power over alienated individuals so that they fall in love with one another. The film is a comedy, but it does destroy the Arcadian ideal, and outcome is never in doubt.

Young plays the scared son Dorothy McGuire the woman whom he falls in love. Directed by Cromwell

3.55 **28.28** **Reportage and Interview: The UK campaign for the Guild Hall, Preston** David introduces the coverage of Jack Karmahm and Clive E. Brown provide the commentary

4.00 **Late August. Highlights from week's *The Last Show***

4.45 **Newsweek with Lenny** (1984, b/w). Newsweek with Lenny

5.00 **The Flap of the Nibelung. Götterdämmerung, Act 1** by the writer and professor of comic literature at Columbia Univ. introduces the prologue and of Götterdämmerung in the by Nikolaus Lehmann with the research on conducting the opera. The story of the struggle for the magical by the dwarf Alberich from the waters of the Rhine. Siegfried, the dragon, captured the penetrated the wall of fire to the Brunhilde. The curse of the however...has still to be fully and the Norns' rope of life be finally

5.45 **Saturday Night Clive**. Clive takes another cutting look at offences of international law

helped by satellite guests and the American comedian Dennis Miller in the studio

10.30 Poets on a Willow Tree. The second of a disenchanted two-part documentary on the history of post-communist Poland, made by émigré Witold Starecki. Though the breakdown of the communist rule enjoyed large support, some see the inevitable result as a breakdown in social order. Much of the country's economy is in ruins and the patience of the population is becoming strained. With western-style capitalism increasingly becoming dominant, thousands are finding themselves jobless as industries are privatised. On the day the presidential elections are to be held, Starecki's film tries to assess the Polish situation and the future of running the country for themselves

1.30 Twin Peaks. Episode five of David Lynch's cult American whodunit, which has soon built a large following here with weekly audiences of more than eight million. Starring Kyle MacLachlan, Michael Ontkean, Piper Laurie and Russ Tamblyn (r). (Ceebs)

2.20am Film: *Onibaba* (1964, b/w) starring Nobuko Otowa, Jitsuko Yoshimura and Kei Sato. Japanese tale of horror and the supernatural set in medieval times in which two women survive a war by selling armour they have stripped from soldiers. When the younger woman falls in love, the other is driven mad with jealousy and starts to wear a terrifying mask in an attempt to haunt the young lovers. One day, however, she finds that she cannot remove it from her face. Original and visually stunning, the film benefits from the claustrophobic atmosphere of the body-hug readings in which the women live, and from the beautifully detailed sets. Directed by Kaneto Shindo. Ends at 2.05

2.30 Target 4.30 11.55 Blue
Young man

[illegible]

Labour camp *Stalking Us* Hartman
6.00 *Crashin' Out* *Stalking Us* *Wino* Vert-
tini (1988) *Jackie* Smith stars as the
gritty attorney who investigates a
feud between two brothers in a warring
community

Crime *Backlash* (1989) A bike mes-
senger (Kevin Bacon) becomes involved in
a web of murder and intrigue

Comedy *My Heart in the Highlands* (1988)
A comedy drama about a young married
couple (Kevin Bacon, Elizabeth McGovern)
from Iowa

Thriller *Twelve Angry Men* (1957) A tug
contending drug money as a witness for dirty
police in a Los Angeles courtroom

Documentary *1.35mm: The Making of Grandeur*
War (1988) A New Mexican town lapsed on road
outside developers. Runs 3:45

BSE GALLERY

7.00pm *Country's Choice* 8.00 *Ten-*
nis: *United States Tennis* 8.30 *World*
8.30 *Re-Ime* 9.30 *Gameplay* *Clash Show*
12.00 *Jupiter* *News* 1.30pm *Dr. Who*, *The*
Doctor's *Return* 2.00 *Clash Show*
Grange Hill *The Early Years* 5.30 *Who*
Clash 6.00 *Partner* *Lenny* *Cart* 6.00
Clash 6.30 *News* 7.00 *Clash* 7.30 *News*
Clash 7.30 *News* 8.00 *Clash* 8.00

GRAMPLAN

GRAMPIAN
As London except: 12:25pm-Lo Du
12:30 Afternoon 12:50-100 Miles The Doo
12:50-100 Miles The Doo
4:46 Pm Carry On Regeneration 81
Charmagne 11:55 Casey Kasem's K
Roll Ghouls 12:55pm Koyak 1:55
Koyak 2:55pm The 19 Men And Her 4:1
Pm Bowling 4:30-5:00 America's Top

GRANADA
As London except: 12:30pm Here
The Double Decker: 12:50-100 Miles The Doo
2:00 Pm Old Manne 2:10 The Spectator
The Spectator Business Reviews 3:10
The Spectator Business 3:15
Devotion Special 12:55pm Koyak 2:55pm
Koyak 3:55pm Her 4:05 Ten Pin Bowling
5:00 America's Top Ten

HTV WEST
As London except: 12:30pm-100
Miles The Doo 12:30-100 Miles The Doo
3:05-4:46 Pm Sands of the Desert
Manly Pil 12:55pm Film Shampoo
Music Box Spacer 3:30 Three's Comp
any 4:30 Come to Notice

ITV WALES
As London except: 11:55pm-12:
Rugby RoundUp

TSW

03

[illegible]

ADIO 4

[illegible]

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00 Stereo and MW 5.00am Jimmy
00 The Bruno and Lu Breakfast Show
00 News Live Topics 1.00pm Adam Jones 2.00
00 Sequence 7.00 The Mary Whitehouse
00 in Concert The Jeff Healey Band, re
11.00-2.00am John Peel

02 On Four Mths incl 10.00, 11.00 Sp
19 05am) 12.00pm Sportocal Phone-

02 On Four Marks and 10.00, 11 00 Sports
9 05am 12.00pm Sportscast Phone-a-
Friday Cricket The second day in the first
Testball reports and second-half commen-
tary League Great Britain v Australia Rugby
Union from Newbury 1.50 Harnettley Cou-
rse 6.05 Sports Report 6.00 As Radio 4 8 4
5.05) for the vacant WBC World Modern
1 00 Sport 11 10 World Service People
time 11.55 Words of Faith 12.00-12.10
News in GMT 5.00pm Moroccan

**The Wednesday 8.09 News 8.09 Words of
of the British Press 9 15 The World**

3.20u Carols 8.00 News 8.00 News
 the Weekend 8.00 News 8.00 Words of
 w of the English Press 9.15 The World
 5.15 Network 10.01 Here's Hump
 11.00 News 11.00 News About Britain
 12.15pm Afternoon 3.15 Sports Re
 Finance News 1.30 Network 10.1 4.5
 4.30 News and Features in German
 6.15 BBC English 8.30 Haste Althou
 News 8.00 Society Today 8.25 Words of
 Story Lost and Found 9.30 From Coun
 Today 11.00 News 11.00 Words of Faith
 12.30pm A Cappella 12.45p
 News of the British Press 2.15 The Times
 About Britain 3.15 Personality Today 3.30
 4.00 Newsweek 4.30 Personal View 4.30

paintings, and the 4
War Museum's cele
the most and ele

	partners, and the late New Museum's cele- brate and played	Rosenberg
	6.30 Last (Doudaine ann-	
La	7.30 The Ring of the Nibel-	
et	The Richard Wagner Ba-	
	Orchestra under Mus-	
	Sewallach perform	
	Gottfriedsmung und	
	with the orchestra,	
	Korner, as Siegfried, and	
	Lipovsek, contralto;	
	Horn, Ingrid Kargman;	
	and, as Second	
	Fenelope Thom; soprano	
	Third Horn (announ-	
	cemented with BBC	
9.45 No 3 Stuttgart CO (Vi-		
	hinchen)	
	with Robert Har-	
10.00 Borchert Concert		
10.25 Birmingham Concert		
	Langham CO under	
	Guillford, with Reider	
	plans, performed	
	Concerto in C minor	
	(Instrumental for pas-	
	sand) (H)	
11.15 Anne Neelands (at		
	from 11.55). Series	
	of singing new music	
	by the mezzo-soprano	
	and tenor duo	
	concerts (The Frog	
	Holloway (A Madrigal	
	Rhymes and Comedies	
	by Henry (Stevens)	
	Ecclesiastical, Finlayson	
	Old, Stompston (Mad-	
	Pigs Could Put Beer	
11.55 The Year for the		
	MW only); Australia	
	England on the third	
	the first Test from En-	
12.00 (MW only)		
12.05 Open Clo-		

BBC 1

8.45 Through the Garden Gate. Nursemaid Dianne Cornish visits Headland at the mouth of the River Fowey (r) 9.15 Inigo. The life and spiritual exercises of St Ignatius (c) 9.30 This is the Day. A simple religious service from a viewer's home in (c) 10.00 A Voice in French for French speakers (r) 10.30 See You Sunday 10.25 España Viva. For beginners in Spanish (r) 10.50 You and 92. How will the new European Single Market affect you and your environment? (r) 11.25 A Way with Numbers. Entertaining methods to help adults improve their maths (r) 11.50 Help Your Child with Reading (r) 12.05 See Hear! Magazine for the hearing impaired (c) 12.30 Country File. John Craven discovers that the great storm of 1987, although responsible for the felling of 15 million trees, was not a complete disaster. The Royal Society for Nature Conservation is using the episode to highlight public awareness of ancient woodlands, and Craven reports on how individuals and organisations are promoting trees. Wales: Farming in Wales 12.55 (c) 1.00 News with Moira Stuart followed by On the Record. An extended edition in which David Dimbleby interviews the three contenders for the Conservative party leadership on their plans for the country if they become prime minister (c) 2.30 EastEnders (r). (c) 3.30 Snooker. David Vine introduces coverage of the early frames in the Stormont UK championship (c) 4.50 The Clothes Show with the latest catwalk and tie-ins in Cornish pewter, and the new image created for the BBC Singers

BBC 2

7.30 King Rollo (r) 7.35 Playdays (r) 7.55 Is That a Fact? The legend of the 17th-century pirate Captain Rollo (r) 8.10 Playdays (r) 8.30 Moviebeat. Multi-film drama for children 8.45 Little Bits (c) 9.10 Corners (r) 9.30 Dungeons and Dragons. Cartoon 9.55 Blue Peter Omnibus (c) 10.40 Midsomer Murders and Her Merry Men. Alternative version of the Robin Hood story (r) 11.10 Boxplots (r) 11.50 The O-Zone (c) 12.00 Regional parliamentary news. Wales: See Hear! (c) 12.30 Scrutiny. Ian MacWhorter looks at the work of MPs in committees as they question and observe government activities. (c) 1.00 Arabic. Sand, Sea and Sky. The last film in the series follows a Bedouin family on its remarkable winter migration across the deserts of southern Arabia. (c) 1.50 Cricket. First Test. Highlights of the third day's play in the first Test between England and Australia in Brisbane introduced by Richie Benaud (c) 2.20 Troubadour. Sir John Harvey-Jones strides through the doors of the Shakespeare Hotel Service to apply his business acumen towards easing the troubles of the NHS (r) 3.00 Film: Bugey Malone (1976). Alan Parker's highly original and very effective musical gangster spoof with a cast composed entirely of children. Look out for the 12-year-old Jodie Foster, on her way to even better things. Parker is featured in The South Bank Show on ITV at 10.50pm. (c) 4.30 Pakistan: The General's Democracy? A profile of Pakistan's new prime minister, Nawaz Sharif (c) 5.00 Rugby Special. Highlights of the Pilkington Cup third and fourth match between the Leicestershire and Leicester. Northern Ireland: Instantons v Cork Constitution and Malena v St Mary's (c) 6.00 Juice Box. Introduced by Jools Holland, Bob Geldof, Monica Love, Dusty Springfield and Rowland Dyer give their verdicts on the week's pop releases (c) 6.35 The Money Programme. In the Japanese car industry Nissan leads the way in production line technology and marketing. Gordon Brewer finds out how (c) 7.15 The Trials of Life: Fighting. More dazzling footage of animals negotiating their way through life. Sir David Attenborough, who is fast turning into a parody of himself, demonstrates how fighting becomes necessary in the search for food, for a mate, for a home, or to protect family and territory (r). (c) 8.05 Not Only... but Also... (b/w). Vintage Series comedy from Peter Cook and Dudley Moore. Duet relates the legend of having to repeat Rachel Welch, plus the amazing story of Emma Barjo, a portrait painter releasing for television. With guest Sheila Steafel (r). (c) 8.35 Nippon: Shock Effect. Solid documentary series about the economic triumph of post-war Japan. Following

ITV LONDON

6.00 TV-am including, at 6.00, News and weather followed by Frost on Sunday. Reviewing the newspapers are Donald Trefford and Frances Edmonds (c) 9.25 The Disney Club with the Reggae Philharmonic orchestra and cartoons (c) 10.45 Link. The story of Ken and Chris Chesley, who met when Chris was a child, and how they are now living together in a wheelchair-bound couple, had a baby (c) 11.00 Morning Worship from St Andrew's Cathedral, Glasgow (c) 12.00 The Human Factor. A look at the work of controversial film director Derek Jarman (c) 12.30 LWT News Weekend (c) 1.00 News with Nicholas Owen. Weather (c) 1.10 Walden Special: The Next Prime Minister. Brian Walden interviews the three contenders for the Conservative party leadership (c) 2.55 The Match. Clon Walsby introduces the coverage of the first division at Old Trafford between Manchester United and Chelsea. Alan Parry and Ian St John provide the commentary (c) 5.05 Sunday Sunday. Gloria Hunniford's guests include actor Steve Gutterberg, singer Dusty Springfield and Tottie Goldstein, lead singer of the group Deep Dazzle. The critics are alternative comic Vic Reeves and presenter Angela Rippon (c) 6.00 The River Thames. The fifth programme in the series on London's waterways (c) 6.30 News with Nicholas Owen. Weather (c) 6.35 LWT News and weather (c) 6.40 Appeal by Bill Owen on behalf of the Child Poverty Action Group (c) 6.45 Highway. Sir Nicholas Owen visits Dungeness, Co. Tyrone (c) 7.15 The Ruth Rendell Mysteries: No Crying He Makes. In this single-episode mystery, the painstaking Inspector

CHANNEL 4

6.00 Transworld Sport (r) 7.00 Pet World. An exploration of the relationships between people and their pets 7.30 Once upon a Time...Life (r) 8.00 Dennis. Cartoon 8.30 Bobobobs (c) 9.00 Early Bird. Magazine for children (c) 9.25 Orientations. Investigates Hong Kong's disabled (c) 10.00 A Week in Politics: Second Reading. A review of the events leading to Mrs Thatcher's resignation (c) 10.45 Dennis. Cartoon 11.00 Owl TV. Nature series (r) (c) 11.10 Grim Tales. Rik Mayall reads Hansel and Gretel by the Brothers Grimm (r) 11.45 The Astrology Show 12.00 The Watsons 1.00 Voyage to the Bottom of the Sea (b/w) 2.00 Film: Rotation to the Core (1985, b/w). Anton Rodgers, Charlotte Rampling (in her first film) and Eric Sykes star in a story of crooks who emerge from a spell behind bars to set up a payroll robbery. Directed by Roy Boulton (c) 3.45 Four-Milestones UK: Ra - The Path of the Sun God. Continuing Lesley Keen's animated evocation of ancient Egyptian beliefs 4.10 Fatty Isles. Candy Guard's incisive animation examines women's obsession with weight watching. Followed by Body Beautiful. Joanna Quigley's animation tells the tale of a factory worker who takes on the big-headed Profiles of animators Karen Watson and Maybelle Peters

Wendford (George Baker) is called in just before Christmas to investigate a mother's discovery that her child has been exchanged for another baby. (c) 8.45 News with Nicholas Owen. Weather

10.20 Spitting Image. More cruel but true to life parody (c) 10.50 The South Bank Show. CHOICE: Alan Parker's films may be more admired in the United States than they are here but there is no denying the achievement of a man who has become one of the most successful British directors in Hollywood, is still only 46 and still sounds like a London barney boy. Asked by Melvyn Bragg how he manages to achieve the Hollywood jungle, Parker replies: "It's about louder than they do and don't put up with any nonsense." A less than nostalgic tax ride round Parker's native Brighton ("God, it's 'romble'") precedes a film by video clips and Bragg's sympathetic questions. The approach leads to get back to the roots in the details of particular scenes and it is left to the Time Out film critic Geoff Andrew to present a wider and more objective view. Parker sees himself as neither an intellectual nor a money-maker in the Swinging movie but as a traditional realist who takes strong drama from the history of comics focuses on those read by the Japanese (c) 12.25 Goff: PGA Tour 90. Highlights of the RACCPGA television series. When Tony and Doug land in New Mexico during the 1980s, they have a close shave with Billy The Kid (r) 2.40 Indy Kart World (c) 3.40 Adventure. Heart-racing footage of men and the natural elements (c) 4.00 The Silk Road. Documentary series on the ancient Asian trade route (r) 5.00 ITN Morning News. Ends at 6.00

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BBC 2

7.30 King Rollo (r) 7.35 Playdays (r) 7.55 Is That a Fact? The legend of the 17th-century pirate Captain Rollo (r) 8.10 Playdays (r) 8.30 Moviebeat. Multi-film drama for children 8.45 Little Bits (c) 9.10 Corners (r) 9.30 Dungeons and Dragons. Cartoon 9.55 Blue Peter Omnibus (c) 10.40 Midsomer Murders and Her Merry Men. Alternative version of the Robin Hood story (r) 11.10 Boxplots (r) 11.50 The O-Zone (c) 12.00 Regional parliamentary news. Wales: See Hear! (c) 12.30 Scrutiny. Ian MacWhorter looks at the work of MPs in committees as they question and observe government activities. (c) 1.00 Arabic. Sand, Sea and Sky. The last film in the series follows a Bedouin family on its remarkable winter migration across the deserts of southern Arabia. (c) 1.50 Cricket. First Test. Highlights of the third day's play in the first Test between England and Australia in Brisbane introduced by Richie Benaud (c) 2.20 Troubadour. Sir John Harvey-Jones strides through the doors of the Shakespeare Hotel Service to apply his business acumen towards easing the troubles of the NHS (r) 3.00 Film: Bugey Malone (1976). Alan Parker's highly original and very effective musical gangster spoof with a cast composed entirely of children. Look out for the 12-year-old Jodie Foster, on her way to even better things. Parker is featured in The South Bank Show on ITV at 10.50pm. (c) 4.30 Pakistan: The General's Democracy? A profile of Pakistan's new prime minister, Nawaz Sharif (c) 5.00 Rugby Special. Highlights of the Pilkington Cup third and fourth match between the Leicestershire and Leicester. Northern Ireland: Instantons v Cork Constitution and Malena v St Mary's (c) 6.00 Juice Box. Introduced by Jools Holland, Bob Geldof, Monica Love, Dusty Springfield and Rowland Dyer give their verdicts on the week's pop releases (c) 6.35 The Money Programme. In the Japanese car industry Nissan leads the way in production line technology and marketing. Gordon Brewer finds out how (c) 7.15 The Trials of Life: Fighting. More dazzling footage of animals negotiating their way through life. Sir David Attenborough, who is fast turning into a parody of himself, demonstrates how fighting becomes necessary in the search for food, for a mate, for a home, or to protect family and territory (r). (c) 8.05 Not Only... but Also... (b/w). Vintage Series comedy from Peter Cook and Dudley Moore. Duet relates the legend of having to repeat Rachel Welch, plus the amazing story of Emma Barjo, a portrait painter releasing for television. With guest Sheila Steafel (r). (c) 8.35 Nippon: Shock Effect. Solid documentary series about the economic triumph of post-war Japan. Following

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ITV LONDON

6.00 TV-am including, at 6.00, News and weather followed by Frost on Sunday. Reviewing the newspapers are Donald Trefford and Frances Edmonds (c) 9.25 The Disney Club with the Reggae Philharmonic orchestra and cartoons (c) 10.45 Link. The story of Ken and Chris Chesley, who met when Chris was a child, and how they are now living together in a wheelchair-bound couple, had a baby (c) 11.00 Morning Worship from St Andrew's Cathedral, Glasgow (c) 12.00 The Human Factor. A look at the work of controversial film director Derek Jarman (c) 12.30 LWT News Weekend (c) 1.00 News with Nicholas Owen. Weather (c) 1.10 Walden Special: The Next Prime Minister. Brian Walden interviews the three contenders for the Conservative party leadership (c) 2.55 The Match. Clon Walsby introduces the coverage of the first division at Old Trafford between Manchester United and Chelsea. Alan Parry and Ian St John provide the commentary (c) 5.05 Sunday Sunday. Gloria Hunniford's guests include actor Steve Gutterberg, singer Dusty Springfield and Tottie Goldstein, lead singer of the group Deep Dazzle. The critics are alternative comic Vic Reeves and presenter Angela Rippon (c) 6.00 The River Thames. The fifth programme in the series on London's waterways (c) 6.30 News with Nicholas Owen. Weather (c) 6.35 LWT News and weather (c) 6.40 Appeal by Bill Owen on behalf of the Child Poverty Action Group (c) 6.45 Highway. Sir Nicholas Owen visits Dungeness, Co. Tyrone (c) 7.15 The Ruth Rendell Mysteries: No Crying He Makes. In this single-episode mystery, the painstaking Inspector

CHANNEL 4

6.00 Transworld Sport (r) 7.00 Pet World. An exploration of the relationships between people and their pets 7.30 Once upon a Time...Life (r) 8.00 Dennis. Cartoon 8.30 Bobobobs (c) 9.00 Early Bird. Magazine for children (c) 9.25 Orientations. Investigates Hong Kong's disabled (c) 10.00 A Week in Politics: Second Reading. A review of the events leading to Mrs Thatcher's resignation (c) 10.45 Dennis. Cartoon 11.00 Owl TV. Nature series (r) (c) 11.10 Grim Tales. Rik Mayall reads Hansel and Gretel by the Brothers Grimm (r) 11.45 The Astrology Show 12.00 The Watsons 1.00 Voyage to the Bottom of the Sea (b/w) 2.00 Film: Rotation to the Core (1985, b/w). Anton Rodgers, Charlotte Rampling (in her first film) and Eric Sykes star in a story of crooks who emerge from a spell behind bars to set up a payroll robbery. Directed by Roy Boulton (c) 3.45 Four-Milestones UK: Ra - The Path of the Sun God. Continuing Lesley Keen's animated evocation of ancient Egyptian beliefs 4.10 Fatty Isles. Candy Guard's incisive animation examines women's obsession with weight watching. Followed by Body Beautiful. Joanna Quigley's animation tells the tale of a factory worker who takes on the big-headed Profiles of animators Karen Watson and Maybelle Peters

Wendford (George Baker) is called in just before Christmas to investigate a mother's discovery that her child has been exchanged for another baby. (c) 8.45 News with Nicholas Owen. Weather

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TV MARKERS

ANGLIA As London except: 12.30pm-1.00pm Farming 2.00pm-2.30pm News 2.35pm-2.55pm The World of Golf 3.00pm-3.30pm News 3.35pm-3.55pm The World of Golf 4.00pm-4.30pm News 4.35pm-4.55pm The World of Golf 5.00pm-5.30pm News 5.35pm-5.55pm The World of Golf 6.00pm-6.30pm News 6.35pm-6.55pm The World of Golf 7.00pm-7.30pm News 7.35pm-7.55pm The World of Golf 8.00pm-8.30pm News 8.35pm-8.55pm The World of Golf 9.00pm-9.30pm News 9.35pm-9.55pm The World of Golf 10.00pm-10.30pm News 10.35pm-10.55pm The World of Golf 11.00pm-11.30pm News 11.35pm-11.55pm The World of Golf 12.00pm-12.30pm News 12.35pm-12.55pm The World of Golf 1.00pm-1.30pm News 1.35pm-1.55pm The World of Golf 1.55pm-2.00pm News 2.05pm-2.25pm The World of Golf 2.30pm-2.55pm News 2.55pm-3.00pm News 3.05pm-3.25pm News 3.30pm-3.50pm News 3.55pm-4.00pm News 4.05pm-4.25pm News 4.30pm-4.50pm News 4.55pm-5.00pm News 5.05pm-5.25pm News 5.30pm-5.50pm News 5.55pm-6.00pm News 6.05pm-6.25pm News 6.30pm-6.50pm News 6.55pm-7.00pm News 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WEEKEND MONEY 40-44

SPORT

SUMMARY

Driving force



PENTTI Airikkala (above), of Finland, starts the Lombard RAC Rally at Harrogate tomorrow seeking to repeat his success of last year. Driving a Ford Sierra Cosworth, he leads the field into the toughest event of the British motor sport calendar.

This year, the rally has been cut to four days and the 180 competitors have been allowed to study the stages in advance, part of a new format designed to make the event more competitive than ever. Preview Page 30

BOXING

Bout of nerves

HEROL Graham, the British middleweight, has possibly his last chance to win a long overdue world title tonight when he meets Julian Jackson, of the Virgin Islands, in Spain. Preview Page 32

RACING

Knight move



VON Cadek, formerly the leading steeplechaser in the United States and now trained by Henrietta Knight (above) in Berkshire, will be among the challengers to Mr Frisk, this year's Grand National and Whitbread Gold Cup winner, in the Hennessy Cognac Gold Cup at Newbury this afternoon. Page 32

HOCKEY

Stick question

TWO years ago, Great Britain won the Olympic gold medal. Now, following a succession of poor results, the critics are wondering if all the extensive and expensive training has been worthwhile. Sydney Friskin, Hockey Correspondent, examines the team's problems. Page 28

FOOTBALL

Pain in Spain

AS JOHN Toshack joins the list of British managers sacked in Spain, Colin Addison and Howard Kendall talk about the pressures and the politics of trying to run a club in a foreign country. Page 29

GOLF

Joint effort



ENGLAND'S Mark James (above) and Richard Boxall, held a one-shot lead at the halfway stage in the World Cup of Golf in Florida. James had a 71 and Boxall a 69 to keep them in front of Spain, with the United States a further shot back. Page 31

RUGBY UNION

Wing clipped

LEICESTER'S prospects of upsetting Bath in the third round of the Pilkington Cup have plummeted with the loss of three players, among them Rory Underwood, the England wing. And can such minnows as Spartans, from Gloucester, and High Wycombe swim their way past the bigger fish? Page 31

A shop window of delights

DAVID MILLER
CHIEF SPORTS
CORRESPONDENT

THIS is an historic day for rugby league, and not just because Great Britain have the chance to win the three-match series against Australia in the final encounter at Leeds. It is a moment in which the league game, 95 years on from its breakaway, rides a tide of publicity that reveals it as a legitimate and worthy rival to the union game for amateur players.

Every sport needs heroes in its shop window. On the domestic scene this autumn, rugby union — the international season for which is in the new year — has no players to catch the imagination of the young in the way that Hanley, Offiah and Schofield, of Britain, or Etinghausen, Stuart and Manning, of Australia, have done in two riveting matches so far.

Not only rugby union, teetering on the edge of the same amateur/professional precipice as it was in 1985, but also association football should be asking why rugby league is predominantly more exciting and more firmly administered in the modern era than they are.

It should also be noted, simultaneously, that 95 per cent of those playing rugby league are amateur, from Plymouth to Newcastle, with the best of them playing it to a high standard. Dudley Hill, of Bradford, recently lost by only six points to Dewsbury's professionals in the preliminary round of the Regal Trophy.

When, at a meeting at the George Hotel, Huddersfield, in 1895, 21 northern clubs left the Rugby Football Union — on the issue of being allowed to pay a maximum six shillings (30p) broken-time for a man who had sacrificed an 18-hour day down a mine — two revolutionary changes followed. Within a couple of years, the league game had become fully professional; and in order to meet the new financial demands, and to make the game more publicly attractive, time-outs were abolished and the team reduced to 13 players from 15.

It is the former which alarms the British Isles diehard conventional-

ists among rugby union's international board (IRB), yet it is the latter which, I believe, in the long term poses an equal threat to the upper level of the union game.

On the one hand, many rugby union administrators, such as Dudley Wood, of England, recognise the imminent danger of the IRB's recent relaxations on professionalism, with the probability that before the end of the century international rugby union will have become almost wholly professional.

On the other hand, the six-tackle league rule, introduced in the early 1970s and by which one side may not grind down the play, has made the league game the exhilarating spectacle we have witnessed during the past couple of months of the Kangaroos' tour — and made it a serious rival for youth enlistment, too. You cannot afford to take your eye off the pitch for a moment, whereas at union matches, and at much of soccer, there is regularly time to debate the Tory Party's European economic policy without missing a beat.

The relative figures for the proportion of time during which the ball is in play are rugby league, 75 per cent; soccer (in the recent World Cup), 47 per cent; rugby union, 25 per cent.

It is, of course, the figure for rugby union which allows tens of thousands of comparatively unfit amateur sportsmen to enthusiastically enjoy their Saturday outings; and which conversely makes it so hard for the majority of converts from union to league. It is the reason why so many fail. Jonathan Davies, the former Wales rugby union international, will tell you that the concentration level at league rises three-fold.

The league game, which in public entertainment terms consists of the two-division fully professional Rugby Football League (RFL), has outgrown the northern, old-fashioned George Formby image, epitomised by the commentaries of Eddie Waring, with their worn, self-patronising clichés. The game now speaks for itself. There is a view that Waring did help put the game on a national footing, which the previous 70 years had failed to do, while some say that the present television commentaries of Ray French, a dual-code international, are too erudite and analytical.

What the present Great Britain-Australia series has done, with a record crowd at Wembley, and full houses for Old Trafford and now Leeds, is to bring the game to millions of new approving eyes. Here is a sport that clearly knows what it is doing, on and off the field; that manages to be both ferociously hard and exceptionally skilful, and still predominately sporting.

The RFL is fortunate in having as its chief executive a man whom the Football Association unwisely overlooked in its quest for new leadership; and who wanted the job. David Oxley heads a board of six directors who meet once a week, can quickly take all day-to-day policy decisions, with only the occasional need to refer to the full council. Three years ago, the council voluntarily stripped themselves of power, and the RFL, with £8 million in sponsorship over the next three years, is a model of how sport should be governed.

Every year the RFL is able to give £350,000 to the amateur body, the British Amateur Rugby League Association, through its foundation, which also receives £160,000 from the Sports Council. With 1,000 schools playing the game, and increasing that number by 100 a year, rugby league today can truly celebrate.

Match preview and teams, page 28



Pass masters: Hanley about to unload to Hampson during the build-up to today's international

Morris to join England party

By RICHARD STREETON

HUGH Morris, the left-handed Glamorgan opening batsman, was summoned to Australia by England yesterday as a reinforcement until Graham Gooch's infected hand heals.

Morris, aged 27, has practised regularly indoors during the autumn in readiness for the England tour to Pakistan in early January, for which he is captain.

Gooch hopes to be fit to play by the third week in December. England start a four-day game with Victoria at Ballarat on December 20, which is followed by the second Test in Melbourne on Boxing Day. In case Gooch is still unavailable, England felt it essential to have a fully accustomed reserve batsman on the spot.

Morris leaves for Australia tomorrow and will arrive in Adelaide on Tuesday before England start a string of one-day fixtures. If Gooch recovers as hoped, Morris would return home to captain the A team as originally arranged. They are expected to leave

London on January 7.

A prolific scorer for Glamorgan last summer, Morris came close to being an original selection for Australia. He has only just returned from a short tour to Barbados, which could not have occurred at a better time.

"I received a telephone call from Alan Smith of the Test and County Cricket Board late on Thursday afternoon telling me to prepare myself to fly out," Morris said. "I've been in many countries playing cricket, but never before in Australia."

"Of course I am excited at the prospect of joining the team, but a little nervous after watching much of the first day's play at Brisbane on satellite television."

The uncapped Morris was sympathetic to Gooch, but added: "For me, of course, this is a tremendous personal challenge."

"It's a great shame I'm going there in the circumstances I am because Graham is so important to the England side. He's England's best player at the moment and it would be great for him to be in the side. But I don't want to go

all that way and just act as cover. I want to play. To play for the full England side in an Ashes series is the pinnacle of any cricketer's career."

But the board spokesman, Peter Seaman, stressed: "Hugh has been pulled in for cover only. Even if he hits a rich vein of form in Australia he will go on to captain the A side in Pakistan, unless Graham Gooch does not recover or somebody else is injured."

"Obviously, we are aware of the possibility that Hugh might have to stay in Australia and a new A team skipper appointed, but it hasn't come to that yet."

Morris is only the fourth Glamorgan cricketer, after Parkhouse, McCann and Jeff Jones, to visit Australia with England.

Two factors contributed to his remarkable advance last summer, when he set several Glamorgan records by finishing with 2,276 runs at an average of 55.51 and scored ten centuries and ten fifties.

The first was his decision during the 1989 season to relinquish the captaincy. He was only 22 and

Glamorgan's youngest captain in their history when he was appointed in 1986 to lead a far from harmonious team and his own form waned under the responsibility. Morris blamed the cares of office for his loss of form, which also led to technical faults creeping into his play.

From the start of last season, Morris's forceful strokes all round the wicket were seen at their best and he scarcely failed all summer. Morris, who also acknowledges the help Viv Richards gave him, has never ruled out the possibility of returning to county captaincy.

From school days, Morris's promise was obvious. He played for the Cardiff club's first XI when 14 and at Blundell's set numerous records. He was only 17 when he first played for Glamorgan, in 1981, and was captain of England's under-19 schoolboys

Reid scuppers England, page 28

Harlequins withdraw from three fixtures

By DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

THE impact of representative rugby next month has forced Harlequins to cancel three first-team games. Various divisional and county calls, as well as seasonal travelling, deprive the club of 38 players, even before injuries are considered.

The Rugby Football Union's decision to marry, for the first time this season, divisional and county matches on the same three weekends, December 1, 8 and 15, made this a possible consequence and Harlequins have been communicating with their scheduled opponents, Blackheath, Bedford and Rugby, for some months to warn them of the possibility.

"Quins have had long and warm

relationships with the three clubs concerned and look forward to a resumption of these fixtures at the earliest opportunity," a club statement said. Unfortunately, the decision comes too late for Blackheath to accept a request to host Kent's game with Devon, which has now gone to Askeans. Blackheath will not seek an alternative game.

"We do regret the cancellation and I have written to Harlequins to say so," Roger Pearce, the Blackheath secretary, said. "To be fair to them they made warning noises back in May that they might have difficulty."

Leicester's woes, page 31

Daredevils in pursuit of recognition

SIMON BARNES
ON SATURDAY

THIS has always been the column that supports tri-cycle racing. But today I wish to express unbridled and unequivocal support for a sport that offers, if possible, still greater possibilities. The sport in question is the racing of tandem bicycles: berserk machines carrying two determined pedallers capable of touching 50mph and sweeping round roundabouts on two wheels a sight to stir the blood of any person with red blood in the veins.

Earlier this year, the tri-cycle racers at last won grudging recognition from the Road Time Trials Councils. This body meets on December 2, and has five separate proposals demanding recognition for competition records set by tandem tri-cyclists.

Tandem tri-cyclists are not dilettantes: a decent racing machine costs £2,500. They are capable of covering 25 miles in 45 minutes, thus sustaining a pace well in excess of 30mph. An ordinary two-wheeled tandem is likely to be about three minutes faster over the same distance. Trikes — single-seaters and tandems both — are less manoeuvrable than two-wheelers, and can get caught in traffic tailbacks, but that has not stopped them going through a record-breaking season. It is surely time for the council to recognise records set by the magnificent tandem tri-cyclists.

Perdomo bites back

And now for the latest excitement from Italian football. Faithful readers may recall Vujadin Boskov, who recently said of Jose Perdomo: "My dog

could play better." Perdomo is now suing. He was negotiating a transfer from Genoa to Coventry, of all places. Negotiations fell through and Perdomo blames Boskov. Perdomo's lawyer, a man with the superbly incongruous name of Degli Innocenti, has stated that the only way Boskov could win the case is by demonstrating to the court that his dog really does play better than Perdomo. Perhaps Coventry will sign the dog.

Meanwhile, Toto Schillaci, the Sicilian superstar of Juventus, appears to have done himself nothing but good by allegedly threatening to have an opponent shot. This odd incident took place last week, as was reported here. Schillaci cannot be prosecuted, because no third party heard the alleged threat. His mother told the press that every one picks on him anyway. The Juventus moheyman, Gianni Agnelli, of Fiat, said Schillaci was the more innocent party in the dispute. A Sicilian playwright said it was the sort of thing Sicilians say to each other all the time. And the disputed penalty that was the cause of the row was shown to be a genuine foul by the s-m-o. In short, everything has fallen Schillaci's way. Last Sunday, he scored three times as Juventus beat Roma 5-0.

More scoring power

For years, in the noble cause of reader service, this column has been trying to

resolve the most important question in sport: does sex affect sporting performance? Susan Butt, professor of psychology at the University of British Columbia, is all for it: provided that the athletes do not get over-enthusiastic.

"Depending on an athlete's personality and physical make-up, sexual activity within reason might even enhance his or her performance," she said. But she added: "Sore and even pulled muscles after sexual activity are common. Many people refer to sexual activity as a 'workout', and sweating, breathlessness, unfeeling and repetition are all parts of the process." However, let us not take this as final. "The poverty of the literature on the relationship between physical and sexual activity is striking," she said.

Discussions of sporting matters tend to degenerate after the first three or four hours. "Well," one says, "what I think is that they ought to sack the lot of them. Every single bloody one." Where some dream, the Ethiopian Football Federation acts. The men of that organisation were wimped by their side's 2-0 defeat at the feet of Tunisia in the African Nations Cup recently. So they have dismissed Abaneh Desta, the coach, Haile Tesfa Gabir, his assistant, and disbanded the entire national squad.

Ludicrous line-ups

Entries for the Team Nightmarer competition are now pouring in. To recap: I am inviting readers to select the ghastliest possible team, on whatever grounds they wish. I already have suggestions for, among other weird ideas, the most horrifying and the most useless football teams, the most bizarre cricket team, the most aptly-named football team and the team with the best entries will receive bottles full of lumpy delight: Calum Coltheats 1957 no less. Self and senior cat will make our first judgments next week.

fish are sexually attracted to them. Examples of success from female anglers: Georgina Ballantine claimed the biggest salmon ever caught in a British river in 1922. It was 64 pounds. The biggest shark caught off Britain was a 500-pounder hooked by Joyce Yallop 19 years ago. Peter Behan, professor of clinical neurology at Glasgow University, says that fish, especially salmon, respond to chemical messages, which possibly guide them on migration. It seems quite possible, he says, that they could sense the sex hormones of women through bait, hook, rod and line, and be attracted to them. The claim is expressed in a book called *Salmon and Women: The Feminine Angle*. Barbara Hargreaves once caught five salmon on a day when male colleagues all around her caught none. But she was not impressed by the book's suggestions. "I have," she said, "better things to do with my hormones than catch fish."

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ITV companies angry at £4m increase in transmission fees

By MELINDA WITTSTOCK
MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

ITV companies are angry at a Home Office decision to allow National Transcommunications Ltd, the soon-to-be privatised ITV transmitter network, to charge higher than expected rates while it retains its monopoly of transmission during the next five years.

The annual charge of £61 million, set by the Home Office with OfTel, the telecommunications watchdog, represents an increase of £4 million over ITV companies' present transmission bills.

Donald Waters, chief executive of

Grampian Television, said he had expected NTL to charge £3 million-£4 million less than the present transmission rate. He said the £61 million rate would allow NTL an "excessive profit margin" when ITV companies were cutting costs to counter an unprecedented decline in advertising revenue, and a franchise auction of Channel 3 licences would be awarded to the highest cash bidder.

A charge of £57 million would still allow NTL a profit margin of 10 per cent. At £61 million, its profit margin will be 18 per cent.

But the Home Office defended its

decision, saying it had set the 1991 charge after considering projected inflation. "The charge is broadly equivalent to existing transmission costs but we have taken into account what might happen to the inflation rate," a spokesman said. "It was also calculated to ensure NTL got a reasonable return on capital, but we also took account of NTL's low degree of risk given its monopoly."

NTL, created from the engineering division of the Independent Broadcasting Authority, to be replaced by the Independent Television Commission in January, does not lose its monopoly position until 1996 when the BBC is

allowed to offer its transmission services to third parties.

The Home Office spokesman said NTL would also have to keep price rises 1 per cent below the retail price index from 1992 to 1995.

David Shaw, head of the ITV Association, and David McCall, chief executive of Anglia Television, will meet Home Office officials next week to discuss the charge. Mr Waters said NTL was "substantially overstaffed" and could lose 15-20 per cent of its staff without harming the quality of the transmission service. But an NTL spokesman said more than 200 staff were being cut from

the 1,044 employed by the IBA's engineering division.

Superchannel, the European satellite broadcaster where Virgin holds a 42 per cent stake, has paid £30 million to acquire the European and Soviet cable and satellite television rights to 100 films and television programmes from the MGM/UA and Pathe libraries.

The satellite company also said it was holding talks with Giancarlo Parretti, head of Pathe Communications, which acquired MGM/UA for \$1.36 billion, about the possibility of MGM taking a minority stake in Superchannel.

News of negotiations with Signor

Parretti comes just two weeks after talks between United Artists and Superchannel broke down. Both parties said they had failed to reconcile "major differences" regarding the long-term funding of the channel.

The Marucci family, which bought Superchannel two years ago, is understood to want to reduce its 56 per cent stake.

Superchannel, which reaches 23 million homes in Europe and is rebroadcast to a further 18 million homes in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union, will use the MGM roaring lion trade mark in promoting programmes.

Executive Editor
David Brewerton

THE POUND

US dollar
1.9675 (-0.0023)
German mark
2.9227 (+0.0104)
Exchange index
94.3 (+0.1)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share
1712.2 (+40.0)
FT-SE 100
2170.5 (+42.6)
New York Dow Jones
2540.59 (+1.23)
Tokyo Nikkei Ave
Closed
Closing Prices ... Page 39
Major indices and
major changes Page 36

INTEREST RATES

London Bank Base 14%
3-month interbank 13 1/4-13 3/4%
3-month sterling bill 12 1/2-12 3/4%
US Prime Rate 10%
Federal Funds 7 1/4%
3-month Treasury Bill 7.08-7.02%
30-year bonds 10 1/2-10 3/4%

CURRENCIES

London New York
£1/\$1.9675
£2/\$3.9350
£3/\$5.8025
£4/\$7.6700
£5/\$9.5375
£6/\$11.4050
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£8/\$15.1400
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Lack of political will leaves Gatt talks unresolved

By COLIN NARRROUGH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

TRADE negotiators seeking to draft accords that will liberalize world trade on an unprecedented scale have effectively halted their efforts after nearly four years, leaving the issue of agricultural subsidies unresolved.

Lack of political will to compromise has halted progress with only nine days to go until the concluding ministerial conference meets in Brussels.

The conference was the deadline for reaching agreement on the ambitious "Uruguay Round" of talks under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, but it is likely that talks will run into next year.

A Gatt spokesman said talks had all but wound up their work at the organization's Geneva headquarters yesterday. Arthur Dunkel, the Gatt director general, will make public the results on Tuesday, with draft agreements presented whether complete or not. The big political issues will be left unresolved.

Despite threatening noises from Washington, the European Community has shown no signs of improving its offer of 30 per cent cuts in its support to farm goods. A last-minute attempt by American negotiators and other leading agricultural exporters, such as Australia and Argentina, failed to narrow the gap.

Most of the agricultural exporters want subsidies cut by between 75 and 90 per cent, against which the EC offer appears extremely modest. Carla Hills, the American trade representative, fears the

EC position threatens the whole Gatt round. Without concessions from the Europeans, primarily the French and Germans, she foresees a large number of countries walking away from the negotiating table. Failure of the round could bring world recession and trade wars, she said.

France's powerful farming lobby is the main obstacle to concessions by the EC, while Germany is seen as merely backing the French position out of political solidarity.

Gatt officials feel that paths to compromise exist if politicians wish to follow them. Mr Dunkel will next week offer a paper of his own intended to point the way forward. He details the 12 key political questions requiring an urgent answer.

Brussels has doggedly resisted a change to its 30 per cent cut proposal or calls to provide specific commitments on its controversial export subsidies and import barriers. Negotiators are convinced

that nothing will happen to change that until ministers meet next month.

Mr Dunkel has recently been trying to persuade governments that the Gatt round requires decisions at the highest level, as farm and trade ministers have reached an impasse. Although the round was discussed bilaterally at the Paris security conference summit this week, no result has emerged.

The Uruguay Round was debated in the Commons yesterday, with John Gummer, the agriculture minister, accusing British farmers and consumers of failing to face up to the issue of subsidy cuts. He said: "We have spent far too long pretending the Gatt round would not come about."

He underlined the importance of success on other aspects at the Uruguay Round, such as services and intellectual property, areas in which America this week made proposals likely to upset accords. The Gatt system would also have to be extended to give access to the newly democratised countries of eastern Europe.

David Clark, the shadow agriculture minister, gave warning that there was a prospect of the Uruguay Round failing, drawing attention to recent remarks from the American trade representative. "A trade war between the United States and the EC would really have catastrophic effects," Mr Clark said. He accused the government of simply seeking a damage limitation on the farm subsidy.



Dunkel: key questions

Nadir backs Cyprus plea

By ANGELA MACKAY



Fighting closedown fears: Richard Stone of Cork Gully

ASIL Nadir and the administrators to his company, Polly Peck International, have filed affidavits in support of the subsidiaries in northern Cyprus. The filings are in preparation for an application to lift the injunction that is preventing the administrators from gaining access to information about the subsidiaries.

Richard Stone, one of the administrators from Cork Gully, part of Coopers & Lybrand Deloitte, returned from northern Cyprus yesterday. He confirmed he had filed an affidavit explaining that the administrators aimed to keep the fresh fruit, hotels and packaging group operational.

The Turkish Cypriot government has been reluctant to cooperate with the administrators in case they tried to close the companies - the biggest private employers on the island.

Mr Nadir also filed an affidavit in support of the application to have the injunction lifted. Mr Nadir, PPI's chairman and biggest shareholder, has been in northern Cyprus overseeing the application, in addition to mustering his personal finances to defend a bankruptcy action brought against him by Lehman Brothers and BZW, his brokers.

PPI shares were suspended in September after their value more than halved when the Serious Fraud Office raided an affiliated company, South Audley Management. Just before administrators were appointed last month, the SFO again mounted a raid, this time on PPI's offices.

Mr Nadir has accused the SFO of single-handedly destroying market confidence in his company and is taking legal action to try to force it to justify its actions.

Mr Nadir has been given a date for a judicial review of the SFO's raid on PPI offices in October. The Queen's Bench Division of the High Court will hear Mr Nadir's case on February 26 1991.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

J Walter Thompson cuts staff by 10%

THE loss of 40 jobs at the London offices of J Walter Thompson, almost 10 per cent of the agency's workforce, has highlighted the troubles of WPP Group, the advertising company Chris Jones, JWP's managing director, blamed the loss of the National Westminster Bank account, a general slowdown in forecast client expenditures and new efficiencies in the company.

This week Mike Walsh, head of WPP's Ogilvy & Mather offshoot in London, was forced to deny rumours about possible redundancies. WPP shares collapsed by 27p in the first two days of the week after a profits warning, started concern that pressure on earnings would make it increasingly difficult for the company to service its debt. The shares, which traded as high as 715p at one stage this year, edged ahead 7p to 134p yesterday.

Board posts at PowerGen to be traced

POWERGEN, the electricity generator, has appointed a non-executive director, John Gardiner, chairman and chief executive of Laird Group, the automotive engineer. Robert Malpas was replaced last week as chairman by Sir Graham Day, another non-executive director. Also promoted to the board is Michael Reidy, as director in charge of the corporate services division.

CU in takeover talks

COMMERCIAL Union is in talks to buy Globe Morley, the pension fund portfolio management unit of Globe Investment Trust, it has announced. Commercial Union has £15 billion of funds under management while Globe Morley has £500 million.

Commercial Union gave no financial details, but Chris Hutchings, insurance analyst at Hoare Govett, the broker, said the deal could be worth half to one and a half per cent of the funds managed - equivalent to £5 million. Commercial Union shares rose 11p to 499p.

HMV sale in New Zealand grows 1.3%

THORN EMI, the electronics and music publishing group, is to sell its record retailing HMV business in New Zealand for NZ\$12.7 million (£3.96 million) to Brash Holdings, an Australian retailer. Thorn said that the chain of 20 small record shops is no longer central to the group's strategy, focused on superstores in big population centres. HMV has 140 stores internationally.

Stirling Group down

STIRLING Group, the Manchester manufacturer of women's clothes, suffered a fall in pre-tax profits from £1.61 million to £305,000 in the six months to end-September. The company blamed the decline on reduced margins and poor sales level.

Group sales were 8.3 per cent lower at £18.8 million. Earnings per share slumped from 2.76p to 0.53p, although the interim dividend is maintained at 0.5p. The shares lost 3p to 30p. Peter Sheldon, Stirling's chairman, said it was unlikely that the shortfall in first half profits will be recovered in the second half.

Skoda still undecided on partner

From REUTER IN PRAGUE

SKODA, the Czechoslovak state-owned carmaker preparing to choose between Renault and Volkswagen in a multi-billion dollar partnership deal, has again denied that the issue is already settled.

"Negotiations are still open," Skoda said, as Roger Fauroux, French industry minister, and Raymond Levy, Regie Nationale des Usines Renault chairman, visited the Skoda works near Prague.

Renault and its partner Volvo have suggested that a decision in favour of Volkswagen would signal that Czechoslovakia is firmly part of the German sphere of economic influence. France has urged Czechoslovakia to demonstrate it wants balanced foreign trade relations.

Volkswagen has offered Skoda an DM8 billion deal. The Renault-Volvo offer, believed to be worth less, is due to be presented next week.

G&G Kynoch to close factory

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH

G&G KYNOC, the Banffshire woollen manufacturer, is restructuring the company in the face of the depressed state of the textile market. Kynoch is closing down its manufacturing operation at Keith which is responsible for the bulk of the group's losses. The cost of the closure is £2.31 million.

The group made a pre-tax loss for the year to end August of £983,000 compared with a loss last year of £374,000. Turnover fell from £4.9 million to £4.02 million and the interest charge rose from £420,000 to £555,000. The extraordinary charge for the Keith closure gives a retained loss of £3.33 million compared with 67p and there is no dividend.

The group expects to sell the surplus assets next year and

Century up by 79% at half year

By JONATHAN PRYNN

CENTURY Oils, the lubricants glass, aluminium and plastic products specialist, has expanded into Northern Ireland by acquiring 51 per cent of K McAnallen, in Benburry, Co. Tyrone, for an initial £625,000 in cash and shares.

Heywood has also introduced £1 million of capital into K McAnallen in equity capital as part of the agreement and will pay up to a further £750,000 depending on performance. K McAnallen makes and distributes glass, safety glass and sealed units, and is engaged in aluminium fabrication. The company made pre-tax profits of £207,000 in the nine months to end-September, on turnover of £3.57 million with net assets of £876,000.

Charles Mitchell, the chairman, said trading conditions had remained difficult, with further declines in demand from mining, construction and manufacturing industries. He said the company was trying to improve efficiency of its core businesses.

Heywood injects £1m into K McAnallen

By PHILIP PANGALOS

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Portfolio

PLATINUM

For readers who may have missed a copy of *The Times* last week, we repeat below the week's Portfolio price changes (today's are on page 36).

Stock	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun
1	+5	+7	+7	+3	+3		
2	+6	+6	+5	+6	+6		
3	+9	+7	+5	+5	+3		
4	+6	+5	+8	+3	+4		
5	+9	+7	+5	+3	+4		
6	+6	+7	+8	+6	+5		
7	+7	+9	+7	+4	+5		
8	+6	+6	+7	+4	+4		
9	+8	+6	+4	+4	+4		
10	+7	+9	+8	+6	+5		
11	+6	+8	+4	+7	+6		
12	+7	+7	+6	+5	+5		
13	+6	+8	+4	+7	+6		
14	+4	+9	+5	+5	+5		
15	+5	+4	+8	+3	+3		
16	+7	+5	+4	+4	+3		
17	+4	+4	+9	+5	+4		
18	+7	+6	+6	+4	+3		
19	+5	+9	+6	+6	+6		
20	+6	+5	+8	+3	+3		
21	+8	+6	+5	+3	+3		
22	+6	+8	+7	+4	+4		
23	+7	+9	+6	+6	+6		
24	+4	+7	+6	+5	+4		
25	+4	+7	+5	+4	+4		
26	+8	+5	+6	+5	+4		
27	+8	+7	+5	+7	+7		
28	+4	+9	+3	+4	+4		
29	+4	+5	+7	+5	+3		
30	+5	+7	+6	+4	+4		
31	+8	+5	+6	+4	+4		
32	+6	+8	+7	+5	+6		
33	+8	+8	+4	+8	+8		
34	+5	+5	+8	+3	+3		
35	+5	+4	+8	+3	+3		
36	+9	+7	+5	+9	+6		
37	+5	+7	+6	+5	+6		
38	+8	+8	+4	+9	+9		
39	+8	+6	+5	+3	+3		
40	+6	+9	+4	+8	+6		
41	+4	+4	+8	+4	+3		
42	+9	+6	+4	+5	+3		
43	+7	+9	+8	+7	+6		
44	+5	+8	+7	+5	+5		

Pontin bids for Bremner

By OUR CITY STAFF

SIR Fred Pontin, the holiday camp pioneer, is to launch a fresh bid to win control of Bremner, the troubled former Glasgow store business.

The founder of Pontins holidays, who is 84, has teamed with Jim Rowland-Jones, former Bremner chairman, and Ronnie Aitken, company doctor, in an attempt to remove the present board.

Bremner installed all its existing directors in July, but was found to be in fresh turmoil last week when Ronald McNeill, one of the four new directors, disclosed that he had resigned in September, after what he described as "considerable acrimony", reserving the right to take



Sir Fred: link-up

action against Bremner and its directors.

In a circular to shareholders Mr Rowland-Jones, whose family is the biggest single shareholder in Bremner, says he will call a shareholders' meeting to replace the existing board with himself, Sir Fred, Mr Aitken and David B Porter.

If the plan is successful, an earlier plan to inject some of Sir Fred's private leisure interests into the company could be revived. These interests include a hotel, catering establishments, and Mousetraps (UK), a new travel business specialising in holiday trips to the EuroDisney theme park near Paris.

Matsushita's price is forecast at between \$70 and \$75 for each MCA share, almost \$20 lower than had been predicted. MCA shares fell \$1.75 to \$66.75 on Wall Street in response.

Analysts said the lower price some had initially expected \$100 a share - reflects a weakening American economy. MCA's investment in Cineplex Odeon, the troubled cinema chain, the slow start of the Florida theme park, which is a joint venture with Rank Organisation, and problems over valuing property holdings in a depressed

MCA to come cheaper

From PHILIP ROBINSON IN NEW YORK

market. Almost a fifth of MCA's biggest Hollywood attraction, the \$20-acre studio tour, was destroyed by fire two weeks ago inflicting an estimated \$25 million worth of damage.

Both sides refused to comment officially, but those close to the talks said the deal could be announced before the market opens on Monday.

It is thought that MCA's hotel and catering concession for Yosemite National Park, estimated to be worth about \$150 million, will not be part of the deal. Government officials have indicated opposition to the Japanese owning one of America's largest national parks.

Foreign ownership will also be barred from MCA's television station, which is expected to be spun off as a separate company and is worth between \$3 and \$5 a share of the total bid price.

The Matsushita bid clouds the European expansion policy of MCA's theme parks. After several delays, MCA is expected to decide at Christmas whether it will open a \$1.2 billion park at Rainham Marshes, Essex, as a further joint venture with Rank or choose a site 20 miles outside Paris and close to the new Disney Europark, which is due to open in less than two years.

Either way, industry analysts say Rank is apprehensive about further commercial links with the film maker and was disappointed with the disastrous start made in Florida, when the King Kong, Jews and Earthquake attractions failed to work properly and sell after opening day.

Walt Disney, 20th Century Fox and Largo Entertainment, the small independent film maker, have all recently sought Japanese backing.

RECENT ISSUES

Equities	31	30	29	28	27	26	25	24	23	22	21	20	19	18	17	16	15	14	13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1
Atlantic Resources	37																														
Brabant Res	155																														
Castle Carr (50p)	29																														
Castles Inv (100p)	94																														
EDU Tst	36																														
EPN Javst Tst	155																														
Faber Press	43																														
Gordon Vain	155																														
Invergon	43																														
Leading Law New	128																														
Liverpool	22																														
Int Media N/P	77																														
M & W P/C	129																														
Malaysian Capital	87																														
Mediant Radio	155																														
Northern Radio	38																														
Prop Tst N/P	11																														
Paramount	78																														
Pearson N/P	11																														
Polcan Int	78																														
Probus Int	78																														

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Past performance is not necessarily a guide to the future. The price

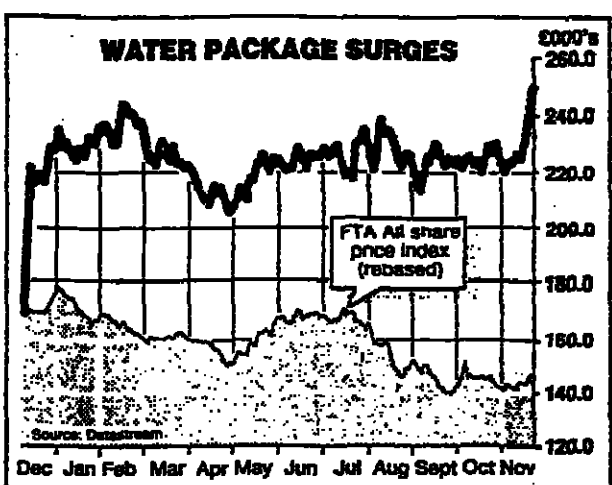
STOCK MARKET

WORLD MARKETS

Shares sigh with relief and hopes of a rate cut

New York
SHARES were weak in early trading, under pressure from a lower bond market and a sharp jump in crude oil prices. Activity was sluggish as many traders appeared to be taking the day off after the Thanksgiving holiday. The Dow Jones industrial average had slipped 2.23 points to 2,537.13.

□ **Hong Kong** - The Hang



Brokers derived great confidence from the minimal impact of the placing on the Pru share price. Dealers said broker James Capel had made the placement on behalf of an institutional client.

The volume of Prudential shares traded was \$2 million. The sale of the large blocks accounted for 24.8 million of the total, because both shares sold and bought are counted.

But most attention was focused on to sectors that will benefit from any rate cuts. Construction shares were buoyant. Homebuilders such as Crest Nicholson at 95p, up 8p, reflected satisfaction with the building society's disclosure that the last reduction in interest rates had already lifted demand for home loans, while among brickmakers the share rose 20p to 580p, additionally cheered by the prospect of closer ties with Europe and the consequent expansion in united Germany.

Breweries enjoyed a strong recovery following the recent approval of the public houses for breweries swap deal between Courage and GrandMet, 24p higher at 617p. Stores also did well on hopes of a pre-christmas spending spree.

Dividend hopes continued to sustain water stocks, where Northumbrian spouted another 13p to 276p. The water package found itself well in demand for its defensive qualities, gaining £93 at £2.563.

Some recent casualties also revived, notably Dury Corporation, up 13p to 88p on recovery and bid hopes in the wake of Thursday's write-offs and dividend omission.

GEORGE SIVELL

GEORGE SIVELL

MAJOR INDICES

[illegible]

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:	
BAT	575 1/2p (+116)
BAA	406 1/2p (+119)
Deans & Newman	85p (+109)
Topical	388 1/2p (+210)
WPP	137 1/2p (+119)
Frogmore	286p (+110)
BICC	347p (+100)
British Telecom	294p (+100)
Telecom of Ireland	477 1/2p (+101)
Capital Telecom	203 1/2p (+100)
Henderson Admin	510p (+105)
Knightsbridge	404p (+122)
Barclays	355p (+130)
West West	255p (+109)
Telecom of Ireland	445p (+110)
Paterson Group	195p (+111p)
FALLS:	
Serine Group	401p 1/- (108p)
Smurfit	472p 1/- (27p)
Deegan	705p 1/- (10p)
Ardanger	745p 1/- (10p)

WORLD MARKET INDICES

Index	Value	Daily ch'ge (%)	Yearly ch'ge (%)	Daily ch'ge (%)	Yearly ch'ge (%)	Daily ch'ge (US\$)	Yearly ch'ge (US\$)
-------	-------	-----------------------	------------------------	-----------------------	------------------------	--------------------------	---------------------------

The World	566.5	0.2	-32.8	0.3	-24.2	0.0	-18.1
(free)	108.3	0.2	-32.8	0.2	-24.2	0.0	-18.1
EAFE	997.2	0.2	-36.0	0.2	-31.2	0.0	-21.9
(free)	102.6	0.2	-36.1	0.1	-31.4	0.0	-22.0
Europe	606.8	0.3	-20.3	0.4	-17.2	0.1	-2.8
(free)	131.5	0.3	-19.5	0.2	-16.7	0.1	-1.9
North America	395.6	0.1	-26.5	0.1	-20.3	-0.1	-10.3
(free)	1070.3	-1.0	-31.2	-0.9	-15.8	-1.2	-16.1
Asia Pacific	178.1	-1.1	-24.8	-0.9	-18.9	-1.2	-7.7
(free)	2189.5	0.1	-64.0	0.0	-39.8	-0.1	-32.7
South East Asia	316.3	0.1	-15.4	0.2	-40.7	0.0	-39.3
Australia	237.7	-0.6	-3.7	-0.2	-14.0	-0.3	-14.8
Australia	318.0	0.0	-11.3	0.2	-5.1	-0.2	8.0
Belgium	716.5	-0.2	-27.2	0.0	-23.4	-0.4	-11.2
Canada	395.6	0.4	-34.1	0.1	-19.5	0.2	-19.6
Denmark	1098.3	-1.0	-16.6	-0.9	-11.9	-1.2	1.8
(free)	66.1	0.4	-42.7	0.5	-38.3	0.2	-30.1
Finland	89.1	1.4	-40.2	1.4	-35.7	1.2	-27.1
(free)	606.2	-0.1	-25.0	0.1	-20.8	-0.3	-8.6
France	728.5	-1.0	-20.6	-0.8	-14.9	-1.2	-3.2
Germany	1904.1	-0.4	-14.2	-0.5	-4.5	-0.6	-4.7
Hong Kong	253.4	0.2	-34.3	0.4	-29.4	0.0	-19.8
Italy	3328.9	0.1	-46.0	0.0	-41.8	0.0	-34.2
Netherlands	728.2	0.7	-23.2	0.9	-17.8	0.5	-6.3
New Zealand	59.4	0.7	-43.3	0.5	-32.9	0.5	-30.9
Norway	1121.4	0.5	-16.5	0.7	-10.4	0.3	1.9
(free)	159.2	0.7	-15.8	0.7	-9.5	0.5	2.9
Spain/Malay	1364.4	0.4	-26.6	0.6	-28.9	0.2	-16.3
Sweden	170.1	-0.4	-25.1	-0.4	-24.7	-0.5	-12.7
Switzerland	1082.8	-1.7	-38.3	-1.6	-32.4	-1.9	-24.2
(free)	156.7	-2.3	-34.5	-2.1	-29.2	-2.5	-20.1
United States	701.2	-1.0	-23.3	-0.6	-23.7	-1.2	-6.5
(free)	106.5	-1.0	-23.7	-0.6	-24.0	-1.2	-6.9
UK	644.8	1.4	-10.6	1.4	-10.5	1.2	9.1
USA	358.5	0.1	-25.6	0.1	-8.5	0.1	-8.5

Source: Local outposts.

Source: Morgan Stanley Capital International

UNLISTED SECURITIES

[illegible]

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

[illegible]

MONEY MARKETS

Euro Rates (%)		Clearing Banks 14		Finance House 15		EURO MONEY DEPOSITS (%)	
Discount	Market Rates 10					7	8
Overnight	17	Low 14	Week Rates 14%			7 1/2	8 1/2
1 month	18 1/2					8	9
3 month	19 1/2					8 1/2	9 1/2
6 month	20 1/2					9	10
1 year	21 1/2					9 1/2	10 1/2
2 year	22 1/2					10	11
3 year	23 1/2					10 1/2	11 1/2
4 year	24 1/2					11	12
5 year	25 1/2					11 1/2	12 1/2
Trade Bill (Discount %)	1 month: 14%						
	3 month: 14 1/2%						
	6 month: 15%						
Interest Rate (%)	Overnight: 14						
	1 month: 14 1/2						
	3 month: 15						
	6 month: 15 1/2						
	1 year: 16						
	2 year: 17						
	3 year: 18						
	4 year: 19						
	5 year: 20						

Local Authority Deposits (%)

[illegible]

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

Open					High					Low					Close					Total																			
FT-SE 100																				Open					High					Low					Close				
Dec 31	2168.8	2294.0	2168.0	2178.0	2168.0	2168.0	2168.0	2168.0	2168.0	2168.0	2168.0	2168.0	2168.0	2168.0	2168.0	2168.0	2168.0	2168.0	2168.0																				
Jan 1	2168.0	2294.0	2168.0	2178.0	2168.0	2168.0	2168.0	2168.0	2168.0	2168.0	2168.0	2168.0	2168.0	2168.0	2168.0	2168.0	2168.0	2168.0	2168.0																				
Feb 1	2168.0	2294.0	2168.0	2178.0	2168.0	2168.0	2168.0	2168.0	2168.0	2168.0	2168.0	2168.0	2168.0	2168.0	2168.0	2168.0	2168.0	2168.0	2168.0																				
Mar 1	2168.0	2294.0	2168.0	2178.0	2168.0	2168.0	2168.0	2168.0	2168.0	2168.0	2168.0	2168.0	2168.0	2168.0	2168.0	2168.0	2168.0	2168.0	2168.0																				
Apr 1	2168.0	2294.0	2168.0	2178.0	2168.0	2168.0	2168.0	2168.0	2168.0	2168.0	2168.0	2168.0	2168.0	2168.0	2168.0	2168.0	2168.0	2168.0	2168.0																				
May 1	2168.0	2294.0	2168.0	2178.0	2168.0	2168.0	2168.0	2168.0	2168.0	2168.0	2168.0	2168.0	2168.0	2168.0	2168.0	2168.0	2168.0	2168.0	2168.0																				
Jun 1	2168.0	2294.0	2168.0	2178.0	2168.0	2168.0	2168.0	2168.0	2168.0	2168.0	2168.0	2168.0	2168.0	2168.0	2168.0	2168.0	2168.0	2168.0	2168.0																				
Jul 1	2168.0	2294.0	2168.0	2178.0	2168.0	2168.0	2168.0	2168.0	2168.0	2168.0	2168.0	2168.0	2168.0	2168.0	2168.0	2168.0	2168.0	2168.0	2168.0																				
Aug 1	2168.0	2294.0	2168.0	2178.0	2168.0	2168.0	2168.0	2168.0	2168.0	2168.0	2168.0	2168.0	2168.0	2168.0	2168.0	2168.0	2168.0	2168.0	2168.0																				
Sep 1	2168.0	2294.0	2168.0	2178.0	2168.0	2168.0	2168.0	2168.0	2168.0	2168.0	2168.0	2168.0	2168.0	2168.0	2168.0	2168.0	2168.0	2168.0	2168.0																				
Oct 1	2168.0	2294.0	2168.0	2178.0	2168.0	2168.0	2168.0	2168.0	2168.0	2168.0	2168.0	2168.0	2168.0	2168.0	2168.0	2168.0	2168.0	2168.0	2168.0																				
Nov 1	2168.0	2294.0	2168.0	2178.0	2168.0	2168.0	2168.0	2168.0	2168.0	2168.0	2168.0	2168.0	2168.0	2168.0	2168.0	2168.0	2168.0	2168.0	2168.0																				
Dec 1	2168.0	2294.0	2168.0	2178.0	2168.0	2168.0	2168.0	2168.0	2168.0	2168.0	2168.0	2168.0	2168.0	2168.0	2168.0	2168.0	2168.0	2168.0	2168.0																				
Three Month Sterling																				Open					High					Low					Close				
Dec 31	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30																				
Jan 1	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30																				
Feb 1	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30																				
Mar 1	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30																				
Apr 1	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30																				
May 1	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30																				
Jun 1	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30																				
Jul 1	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30																				
Aug 1	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30																				
Sep 1	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30																				
Oct 1	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30																				
Nov 1	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30																				
Dec 1	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30																				
Three Month Eurodollar																				Open					High					Low					Close				
Dec 31	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30																				
Jan 1	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30																				
Feb 1	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30																				
Mar 1	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30																				
Apr 1	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30																				
May 1	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30																				
Jun 1	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30																				
Jul 1	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30																				
Aug 1	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30																				
Sep 1	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30																				
Oct 1	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30																				
Nov 1	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30																				
Dec 1	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30																				
US Treasury Bond																				Open					High					Low					Close				
Dec 31	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30																				
Jan 1	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30																				
Feb 1	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30																				
Mar 1	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30																				
Apr 1	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30																				
May 1	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30																				
Jun 1	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30																				
Jul 1	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30																				
Aug 1	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30																				
Sep 1	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30																				
Oct 1	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30																				
Nov 1	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30																				
Dec 1	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30																				
Long Gilt																				Open					High					Low					Close				
Dec 31	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30																				
Jan 1	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30																				
Feb 1	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30																				
Mar 1	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30																				
Apr 1	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30																				
May 1	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30	99.30																				

97	---	81.07	91.06	91.02	90.86	3063	Dec 90	---	83.18	83.36	83.08	83.21	11
97	---	---	91.06	91.02	91.06	4508	Mar 91	---	83.10	83.22	82.98	83.10	2

[illegible][illegible]

1990	1989	1988	1987	1986	1985	1984	1983	1982	1981	1980	1979	1978	1977	1976	1975	1974	1973	1972	1971	1970	1969	1968	1967	1966	1965	1964	1963	1962	1961	1960	1959	1958	1957	1956	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948	1947	1946	1945	1944	1943	1942	1941	1940	1939	1938	1937	1936	1935	1934	1933	1932	1931	1930	1929	1928	1927	1926	1925	1924	1923	1922	1921	1920	1919	1918	1917	1916	1915	1914	1913	1912	1911	1910	1909	1908	1907	1906	1905	1904	1903	1902	1901	1900	1899	1898	1897	1896	1895	1894	1893	1892	1891	1890	1889	1888	1887	1886	1885	1884	1883	1882	1881	1880	1879	1878	1877	1876	1875	1874	1873	1872	1871	1870	1869	1868	1867	1866	1865	1864	1863	1862	1861	1860	1859	1858	1857	1856	1855	1854	1853	1852	1851	1850	1849	1848	1847	1846	1845	1844	1843	1842	1841	1840	1839	1838	1837	1836	1835	1834	1833	1832	1831	1830	1829	1828	1827	1826	1825	1824	1823	1822	1821	1820	1819	1818	1817	1816	1815	1814	1813	1812	1811	1810	1809	1808	1807	1806	1805	1804	1803	1802	1801	1800	1799	1798	1797	1796	1795	1794	1793	1792	1791	1790	1789	1788	1787	1786	1785	1784	1783	1782	1781	1780	1779	1778	1777	1776	1775	1774	1773	1772	1771	1770	1769	1768	1767	1766	1765	1764	1763	1762	1761	1760	1759	1758	1757	1756	1755	1754	1753	1752	1751	1750	1749	1748	1747	1746	1745	1744	1743	1742	1741	1740	1739	1738	1737	1736	1735	1734	1733	1732	1731	1730	1729	1728	1727	1726	1725	1724	1723	1722	1721	1720	1719	1718	1717	1716	1715	1714	1713	1712	1711	1710	1709	1708	1707	1706	1705	1704	1703	1702	1701	1700	1699	1698	1697	1696	1695	1694	1693	1692	1691	1690	1689	1688	1687	1686	1685	1684	1683	1682	1681	1680	1679	1678	1677	1676	1675	1674	1673	1672	1671	1670	1669	1668	1667	1666	1665	1664	1663	1662	1661	1660	1659	1658	1657	1656	1655	1654	1653	1652	1651	1650	1649	1648	1647	1646	1645	1644	1643	1642	1641	1640	1639	1638	1637	1636	1635	1634	1633	1632	1631	1630	1629	1628	1627	1626	1625	1624	1623	1622	1621	1620	1619	1618	1617	1616	1615	1614	1613	1612	1611	1610	1609	1608	1607	1606	1605	1604	1603	1602	1601	1600	1599	1598	1597	1596	1595	1594	1593	1592	1591	1590	1589	1588	1587	1586	1585	1584	1583	15
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THIRD MARKET

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COMMODITIES

COMMODITIES			
LONDON FOR			
COGCOA	ART PUMPKIN	SPR 874-813	
Dec 839-380	ART POTATO	SPR 874-813	
Jan 839-380	ART PEAS	SPR 874-813	
May 775-774	ART CORN	SPR 874-813	
July 786-792	ART BEAN	SPR 874-813	
Nov 821-821	ART LENTIL	SPR 874-813	
Dec 821-821	ART CHICKEN	SPR 874-813	
Jan 821-821	ART TURKEY	SPR 874-813	
Feb 821-821	ART HAM	SPR 874-813	
Mar 821-821	ART BEEF	SPR 874-813	
Apr 821-821	ART PORK	SPR 874-813	
May 821-821	ART BUTTER	SPR 874-813	
Jun 821-821	ART CHEESE	SPR 874-813	
Jul 821-821	ART MILK	SPR 874-813	
Aug 821-821	ART EGGS	SPR 874-813	
Sept 821-821	ART SUGAR	SPR 874-813	
Oct 821-821	ART COFFEE	SPR 874-813	
Nov 821-821	ART TEA	SPR 874-813	
Dec 821-821	ART SPICES	SPR 874-813	
Jan 821-821	ART OILS	SPR 874-813	
Feb 821-821	ART METALS	SPR 874-813	
Mar 821-821	ART CLOTHS	SPR 874-813	
Apr 821-821	ART FIBERS	SPR 874-813	
May 821-821	ART RUBBER	SPR 874-813	
Jun 821-821	ART PLASTICS	SPR 874-813	
Jul 821-821	ART GLASS	SPR 874-813	
Aug 821-821	ART CERAMICS	SPR 874-813	
Sept 821-821	ART PAPER	SPR 874-813	
Oct 821-821	ART WOOD	SPR 874-813	
Nov 821-821	ART LUMBER	SPR 874-813	
Dec 821-821	ART MINERALS	SPR 874-813	
Jan 821-821	ART FUELS	SPR 874-813	
Feb 821-821	ART ORES	SPR 874-813	
Mar 821-821	ART GEMS	SPR 874-813	
Apr 821-821	ART JEWELRY	SPR 874-813	
May 821-821	ART CLOCKS	SPR 874-813	
Jun 821-821	ART TOYS	SPR 874-813	
Jul 821-821	ART BOOKS	SPR 874-813	
Aug 821-821	ART MUSIC	SPR 874-813	
Sept 821-821	ART FILMS	SPR 874-813	
Oct 821-821	ART TVS	SPR 874-813	
Nov 821-821	ART REFRIG	SPR 874-813	
Dec 821-821	ART STOVES	SPR 874-813	
Jan 821-821	ART WASHERS	SPR 874-813	
Feb 821-821	ART DRYERS	SPR 874-813	
Mar 821-821	ART FREEZERS	SPR 874-813	
Apr 821-821	ART Ovens	SPR 874-813	
May 821-821	ART Grills	SPR 874-813	
Jun 821-821	ART Toasters	SPR 874-813	
Jul 821-821	ART Kettles	SPR 874-813	
Aug 821-821	ART Pots	SPR 874-813	
Sept 821-821	ART Pans	SPR 874-813	
Oct 821-821	ART Trays	SPR 874-813	
Nov 821-821	ART Baking	SPR 874-813	
Dec 821-821	ART Cooking	SPR 874-813	
Jan 821-821	ART Dining	SPR 874-813	
Feb 821-821	ART Living	SPR 874-813	
Mar 821-821	ART Bed	SPR 874-813	
Apr 821-821	ART Bath	SPR 874-813	
May 821-821	ART Kitchen	SPR 874-813	
Jun 821-821	ART Hallway	SPR 874-813	
Jul 821-821	ART Bedroom	SPR 874-813	
Aug 821-821	ART Bathroom	SPR 874-813	
Sept 821-821	ART Porch	SPR 874-813	
Oct 821-821	ART Garden	SPR 874-813	
Nov 821-821	ART Driveway	SPR 874-813	
Dec 821-821	ART Garage	SPR 874-813	
Jan 821-821	ART Basement	SPR 874-813	
Feb 821-821	ART Attic	SPR 874-813	
Mar 821-821	ART Roof	SPR 874-813	
Apr 821-821	ART Siding	SPR 874-813	
May 821-821	ART Shingles	SPR 874-813	
Jun 821-821	ART Tiles	SPR 874-813	
Jul 821-821	ART Carpet	SPR 874-813	
Aug 821-821	ART Floor	SPR 874-813	
Sept 821-821	ART Walls	SPR 874-813	
Oct 821-821	ART Ceilings	SPR 874-813	
Nov 821-821	ART Windows	SPR 874-813	
Dec 821-821	ART Doors	SPR 874-813	
Jan 821-821	ART Stairs	SPR 874-813	
Feb 821-821	ART Balcony	SPR 874-813	
Mar 821-821	ART Terrace	SPR 874-813	
Apr 821-821	ART Deck	SPR 874-813	
May 821-821	ART Fence	SPR 874-813	
Jun 821-821	ART Gate	SPR 874-813	
Jul 821-821	ART Mailbox	SPR 874-813	
Aug 821-821	ART Light	SPR 874-813	
Sept 821-821	ART Fan	SPR 874-813	
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Nov 821-821	ART Cooler	SPR 874-813	
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May 821-821	ART Pot	SPR 874-813	
Jun 821-821	ART Pan	SPR 874-813	
Jul			

DATE	TIME	LOCATION	WIND	TEMP	REL	WIND	TEMP	REL	WIND	TEMP	REL
0308	0100	03 18	03 36	03 08	03 21	03 10	03 10	03 10	03 10	03 10	03 10
0308	0101	03 19	03 27	02 08	03 21	03 10	03 10	03 10	03 10	03 10	03 10

[illegible]

Monthly performance figures show value of £100 based on offer to offer price without income re-invested and ranking within sector. Yearly figures are based on offer to bid prices with income re-invested. — Unit trust was founded within the last year. †PEP scheme available. *Source: Finstat.*

[illegible]

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182
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114
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187
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[illegible]

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Portfolio PLATINUM

From your Portfolio Platinum card check your eight share price movements on this page only. Add these prices to your running total for the week and check this against the weekly dividend figure on this page. If it matches the figure, you have won outright or a share of the total weekly prize money stated. If you win, follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. You must always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No.	Company	Group	Code or Iss.
1	Avon Rubber	Industrial A-D	
2	Bills & Berard	Chemicals, Plastics	
3	Clyde P.	Oil/Gas	
4	De Almay (as)	Transport	
5	East Allen	Industries A-D	
6	Bridon	Industries A-D	
7	Wills Gp	Industries A-D	
8	Watts	Property	
9	Lee (Arthur)	Industries A-D	
10	Hambro Country	Property	
11	Tay Broom	Building Roads	
12	Clifford Foods 'A'	Food	
13	McDonald	Industries A-D	
14	Broads Motor	Motor/Aircraft	
15	Marmores (I)	Building Roads	
16	Vickers	Industries A-D	
17	Clarke Nicholls	Property	
18	ADT (as)	Industries A-D	
19	East Group	Motor/Aircraft	
20	James (P)	Transport	
21	Unigate (as)	Property	
22	NSM	Building Roads	
23	Union Dac	Food	
24	Cookson (as)	Industries A-D	
25	Uthmaniyah	Oil/Gas	
26	Bentley Gm	Property	
27	Island From	Food	
28	Leung (O)	Building Roads	
29	SEA	Industries A-D	
30	Morgan Gm	Industries A-D	
31	Br Land (as)	Property	
32	Bendon Group	Building Roads	
33	Thompson Dav	Transport	
34	Rusadi (A)	Industries A-D	
35	Br Vin	Industries A-D	
36	Allied Text	Textiles	
37	Pearl Elect	Electronics	
38	Marsden	Building Roads	
39	Seaton	Electronics	
40	Black Johnson	Building Roads	
41	Griffith	Industries A-D	
42	Griffith	Property	
43	Shawcross	Industries A-D	
44	Therby Group	Building Roads	

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend						
Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £4,000 in today's newspaper.						
MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	TOTAL

The £2,000 Portfolio Platinum prize was won yesterday by Mrs Angela Davies, of Bushy, Herts.

BRITISH FUNDS

High Low Stock Price Change

SHORTS (Under Five Years)	
Avon Rubber	100
Bills & Berard	100
Clyde P.	100
De Almay (as)	100
East Allen	100
Bridon	100
Wills Gp	100
Watts	100
Lee (Arthur)	100
Hambro Country	100
Tay Broom	100
Clifford Foods 'A'	100
McDonald	100
Broads Motor	100
Marmores (I)	100
Vickers	100
Clarke Nicholls	100
ADT (as)	100
East Group	100
James (P)	100
Unigate (as)	100
NSM	100
Union Dac	100
Cookson (as)	100
Uthmaniyah	100
Bentley Gm	100
Island From	100
Leung (O)	100
SEA	100
Morgan Gm	100
Br Land (as)	100
Bendon Group	100
Thompson Dav	100
Rusadi (A)	100
Br Vin	100
Allied Text	100
Pearl Elect	100
Marsden	100
Seaton	100
Black Johnson	100
Griffith	100
Griffith	100
Shawcross	100
Therby Group	100

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS	
Avon Rubber	100
Bills & Berard	100
Clyde P.	100
De Almay (as)	100
East Allen	100
Bridon	100
Wills Gp	100
Watts	100
Lee (Arthur)	100
Hambro Country	100
Tay Broom	100
Clifford Foods 'A'	100
McDonald	100
Broads Motor	100
Marmores (I)	100
Vickers	100
Clarke Nicholls	100
ADT (as)	100
East Group	100
James (P)	100
Unigate (as)	100
NSM	100
Union Dac	100
Cookson (as)	100
Uthmaniyah	100
Bentley Gm	100
Island From	100
Leung (O)	100
SEA	100
Morgan Gm	100
Br Land (as)	100
Bendon Group	100
Thompson Dav	100
Rusadi (A)	100
Br Vin	100
Allied Text	100
Pearl Elect	100
Marsden	100
Seaton	100
Black Johnson	100
Griffith	100
Griffith	100
Shawcross	100
Therby Group	100

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS	
Avon Rubber	100
Bills & Berard	100
Clyde P.	100
De Almay (as)	100
East Allen	100
Bridon	100
Wills Gp	100
Watts	100
Lee (Arthur)	100
Hambro Country	100
Tay Broom	100
Clifford Foods 'A'	100
McDonald	100
Broads Motor	100
Marmores (I)	100
Vickers	100
Clarke Nicholls	100
ADT (as)	100
East Group	100
James (P)	100
Unigate (as)	100
NSM	100
Union Dac	100
Cookson (as)	100
Uthmaniyah	100
Bentley Gm	100
Island From	100
Leung (O)	100
SEA	100
Morgan Gm	100
Br Land (as)	100
Bendon Group	100
Thompson Dav	100
Rusadi (A)	100
Br Vin	100
Allied Text	100
Pearl Elect	100
Marsden	100
Seaton	100
Black Johnson	100
Griffith	100
Griffith	100
Shawcross	100
Therby Group	100

UNDATED	
Avon Rubber	100
Bills & Berard	100
Clyde P.	100
De Almay (as)	100
East Allen	100
Bridon	100
Wills Gp	100
Watts	100
Lee (Arthur)	100
Hambro Country	100
Tay Broom	100
Clifford Foods 'A'	100
McDonald	100
Broads Motor	100
Marmores (I)	100
Vickers	100
Clarke Nicholls	100
ADT (as)	100
East Group	100
James (P)	100
Unigate (as)	100
NSM	100
Union Dac	100
Cookson (as)	100
Uthmaniyah	100
Bentley Gm	100
Island From	100
Leung (O)	100
SEA	100
Morgan Gm	100
Br Land (as)	100
Bendon Group	100
Thompson Dav	100
Rusadi (A)	100
Br Vin	100
Allied Text	100
Pearl Elect	100
Marsden	100
Seaton	100
Black Johnson	100
Griffith	100
Griffith	100
Shawcross	100
Therby Group	100

INDEX-LINKED	
Avon Rubber	100
Bills & Berard	100
Clyde P.	100
De Almay (as)	100
East Allen	100
Bridon	100
Wills Gp	100
Watts	100
Lee (Arthur)	100
Hambro Country	100
Tay Broom	100
Clifford Foods 'A'	100
McDonald	100
Broads Motor	100
Marmores (I)	100
Vickers	100
Clarke Nicholls	100
ADT (as)	100
East Group	100
James (P)	100
Unigate (as)	100
NSM	100
Union Dac	100
Cookson (as)	100
Uthmaniyah	100
Bentley Gm	100
Island From	100
Leung (O)	100
SEA	100
Morgan Gm	100
Br Land (as)	100
Bendon Group	100
Thompson Dav	100
Rusadi (A)	100
Br Vin	100
Allied Text	100
Pearl Elect	100
Marsden	100
Seaton	100
Black Johnson	100
Griffith	100
Griffith	100
Shawcross	100
Therby Group	100

BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP	
Avon Rubber	100
Bills & Berard	100
Clyde P.	100
De Almay (as)	100
East Allen	100
Bridon	100
Wills Gp	100
Watts	100
Lee (Arthur)	100
Hambro Country	100
Tay Broom	100
Clifford Foods 'A'	100
McDonald	100
Broads Motor	100
Marmores (I)	100
Vickers	100
Clarke Nicholls	100
ADT (as)	100
East Group	100
James (P)	100
Unigate (as)	100
NSM	100
Union Dac	100
Cookson (as)	100
Uthmaniyah	100
Bentley Gm	100
Island From	100
Leung (O)	100
SEA	100
Morgan Gm	100
Br Land (as)	100
Bendon Group	100
Thompson Dav	100
Rusadi (A)	100
Br Vin	100
Allied Text	100
Pearl Elect	100
Marsden	100
Seaton	100
Black Johnson	100
Griffith	100
Griffith	100
Shawcross	100
Therby Group	100

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Brisk trading

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings begin Monday. Dealings end December 7. Contango day December 10. Settlement day December 17.
Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Where one price is quoted, it is a middle price. Changes, yields and price earnings ratios are based on middle prices. (as) denotes Alpha Stocks.
(VOLUMES PAGE 37)

BREWERS	
Asahi	100
Beck's	100
Carlsberg	100
Heineken	100
Kaiser	100
Leffe	100
Stout	100
Tennent	100
Watney	100

BUILDING, ROADS	
Amey	100
Balfour Beatty	100
Bechtel	100
Chubb	100
Costain	100
Day	100
James	100
McAlpine	100
Parsons	100
Robertson	100
Taylor Woodrow	100
Ward	100

FINANCE, LAND	
Abn-Amro	100
Barclays	100
Bank of America	100
Bank of London	100
Bank of Montreal	100
Bank of Paris	100
Bank of Spain	100
Bank of Tokyo	100
Bank of West	100
Bank of Yugoslavia	100
Bank of Zaire	100
Bank of Zimbabwe	100
Bank of Zambia	100
Bank of Malawi	100
Bank of Botswana	100
Bank of Lesotho	100
Bank of Swaziland	100
Bank of Namibia	100
Bank of Angola	100
Bank of Congo	100
Bank of Gabon	100
Bank of Guinea	100
Bank of Sierra Leone	100
Bank of Liberia	100
Bank of Ivory Coast	100
Bank of Senegal	100
Bank of Mauritania	100
Bank of Mali	100
Bank of Niger	100
Bank of Chad	100
Bank of Central African Rep	100
Bank of Equatorial Guinea	100
Bank of Gambia	100
Bank of Guinea-Bissau	100
Bank of Cape Verde	100
Bank of Sao Tome & Principe	100
Bank of Mozambique	100
Bank of Zimbabwe	100
Bank of Botswana	100
Bank of Lesotho	100
Bank of Swaziland	100
Bank of Namibia	100
Bank of Angola	100
Bank of Congo	100
Bank of Gabon	100
Bank of Guinea	100
Bank of Sierra Leone	100
Bank of Liberia	100
Bank of Ivory Coast	100
Bank of Senegal	100
Bank of Mauritania	100
Bank of Mali	100
Bank of Niger	100
Bank of Chad	100
Bank of Central African Rep	100
Bank of Equatorial Guinea	100
Bank of Gambia	100
Bank of Guinea-Bissau	100
Bank of Cape Verde	100
Bank of Sao Tome & Principe	100
Bank of Mozambique	100

FINANCIAL TRUSTS	
Abn-Amro	100
Barclays	100
Bank of America	100
Bank of London	100
Bank of Montreal	100
Bank of Paris	100
Bank of Spain	100
Bank of Tokyo	100
Bank of West	100
Bank of Yugoslavia	100
Bank of Zaire	100
Bank of Zimbabwe	100
Bank of Zambia	100
Bank of Malawi	100
Bank of Botswana	100
Bank of Lesotho	100
Bank of Swaziland	100
Bank of Namibia	100
Bank of Angola	100
Bank of Congo	100
Bank of Gabon	100
Bank of Guinea	100
Bank of Sierra Leone	100
Bank of Liberia	100
Bank of Ivory Coast	100
Bank of Senegal	100
Bank of Mauritania	100
Bank of Mali	100
Bank of Niger	100
Bank of Chad	100
Bank of Central African Rep	100
Bank of Equatorial Guinea	100
Bank of Gambia	100
Bank of Guinea-Bissau	100
Bank of Cape Verde	100
Bank of Sao Tome & Principe	100
Bank of Mozambique	100

FOODS	
Asahi	100
Beck's	100
Carlsberg	100
Heineken	100
Kaiser	100
Leffe	100
Stout	100
Tennent	100
Watney	100

CHEMICALS, PLASTICS	
Asahi	100
Beck's	100
Carlsberg	100
Heineken	100
Kaiser	100
Leffe	100
Stout	100
Tennent	100
Watney	100

DRAPERY, STORES	
Asahi	100
Beck's	100
Carlsberg	100
Heineken	100
Kaiser	100
Leffe	100
Stout	100
Tennent	100
Watney	100

HOTELS, CATERERS	
Asahi	100
Beck's	100
Carlsberg	100
Heineken	100
Kaiser	100
Leffe	100
Stout	100
Tennent	100
Watney	100

INDUSTRIALS A-D	
Asahi	100
Beck's	100
Carlsberg	100
Heineken	100
Kaiser	100
Leffe	100
Stout	100
Tennent	100
Watney	100

ELECTRICALS	
Asahi	100
Beck's	100
Carlsberg	100
Heineken	100
Kaiser	100
Leffe	100
Stout	100
Tennent	100
Watney	100

BREWERS	
Asahi	100
Beck's	100
Carlsberg	100
Heineken	100
Kaiser	100
Leffe	100
Stout	100
Tennent	100
Watney	100

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Borrowers count cost of loan deals

By HELEN FRIDMAN

BUILDING societies are increasingly linking special mortgage deals to their combined buildings and contents insurance package. These arrangements may bring savings initially in the form of lower monthly repayments, but, in the longer term, borrowers will often be able to save more money buying home insurance cover separately.

The Halifax is one of the latest to offer such an arrangement. The society recently launched a 1.25 per cent discount for first-time borrowers that runs until the end of December 1991 on the condition that its home insurance is taken as well.

Reductions on larger loans, low-start mortgages and fixed-rate deals may all have such strings attached.

Societies were able to start offering their own home insurance packages after the 1986 Building Societies Act. The policies are usually underwritten by a panel of leading insurers, such as Commercial Union, Eagle Star, Legal & General and Sun Alliance. The commission the societies earn provides a useful source of extra income.

Last week, the Leeds Permanent published annual figures showing that its income from commissions had risen by £20 million to £90 million.

Where the combined property and contents cover is offered as an optional extra,

societies find that the take-up is about 40 per cent of new borrowers. The combined packages have the advantage of convenience, as home buyers do not have to bother about taking out separate policies.

Normally there is no need to work out the value of possessions. Most societies use the value and location of the property as their guide to calculating premiums, and accidental damage cover is often automatically included as well.

The amount of contents cover varies. The cover may be a fixed amount such as the £35,000 offered by Leeds Permanent, or, as at the Nationwide Anglia, 50 per cent of the amount for which the buildings are insured.

The Halifax also works on 50 per cent of cover, though in the event of a claim, the amount for contents cover is flexible. For example, on a £50,000 property, total cover would be £75,000, but more than £25,000 could be claimed for contents if required.

Increasingly, the amount of contents cover being provided by the societies' packages is unlimited. So the danger of underinsurance, which exists under a traditional policy, is avoided and there is no risk of claims being reduced.

But borrowers should look carefully at how much they are paying for this peace of mind. Premiums vary considerably between societies and some

are more competitive in lower risk areas than higher risk areas and vice versa.

The rates the largest societies would charge for a property in a higher risk area such as Harrow, north London, and a low risk area on the outskirts of Bradford, West Yorkshire, are shown in the table. The premiums include cover for accidental damage.

For Harrow, premiums vary between £451.00 and £688.08, while for Bradford the range is £222.60 to £335.10.

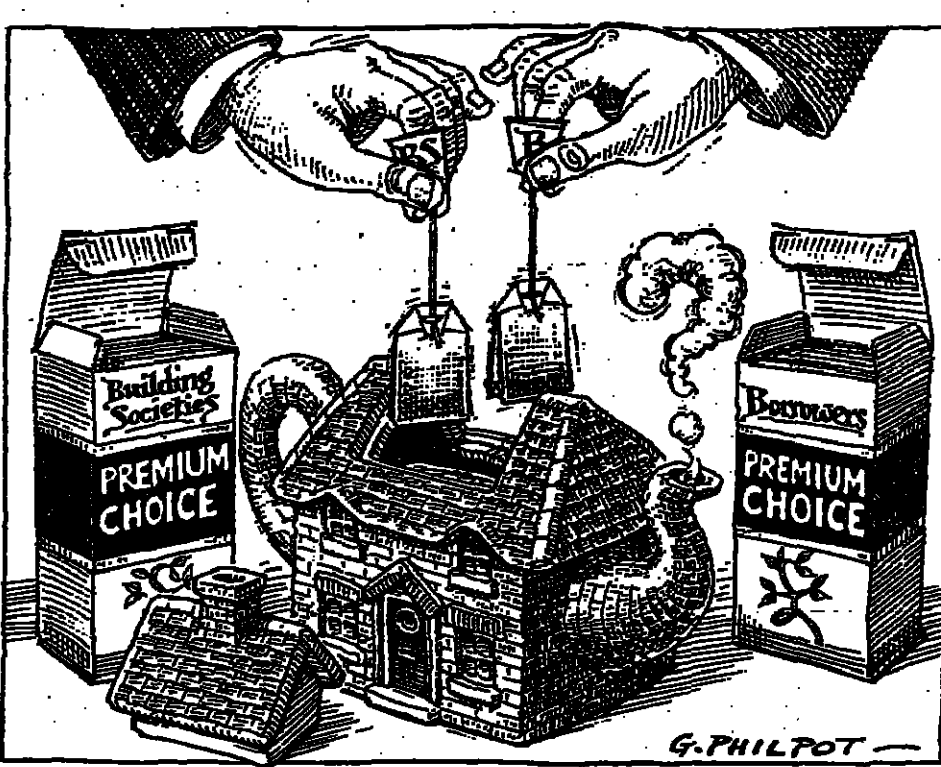
How these premiums compare with what homebuyers can obtain elsewhere will vary much depend on how much the home contents are actually worth.

For someone living in a Harrow property with a re-building cost of £94,000, with contents worth half that amount, then the societies' premiums are competitive compared with those charged by Municipal Mutual, a low cost home insurer, or Directline, a company that started out offering motor insurance at reduced rates direct to the public over the telephone. For the Bradford property, however, both companies would charge less.

The difference is more marked where the home contents are of modest value. This may apply particularly to first-time buyers, who are unlikely to have large amounts of possessions when they set up home.

If the contents are only worth 20 per cent of the value of the property in each case, equivalent to £18,800 in Harrow and £10,600 in Bradford, the savings possible by insuring independently would be considerable.

The difference between the cost of this cover for the Bradford property from Directline compared with the Halifax package is nearly £200 a year. This is less than the saving from the 1.25 per cent



first-time buyer's discount given by the Halifax, which would work out at £531 on a £50,000 mortgage over one year. After that it would make sense to switch.

Existing borrowers who are not benefiting from interest rate discounts and do not live in high risk areas could save considerably if they make the effort to check the value of their possessions and find alternative quotes.

Building societies may make a £20 to £25 administrative charge to effect the change on buildings cover, but no fee is levied for taking out separate contents insurance.

	Contents cover	Location/rebuilding value of property	Estimated cost
Halifax	50% of prop val up to £14,000	Harrow MAY, £94,000	254.40
Abbey National	50% of prop val	Bradford BODS £28,000	335.10
Nationwide Anglia	50% of prop val		
Woolwich	Unlimited		243.80
Alliance & Leicester	Unlimited		254.40
Leeds Permanent	£35,000		254.40
National & Provincial	£25,000		243.80
Cheltenham & Gloucester	Unlimited		235.32
Bradford & Bingley	Unlimited		254.40
Reliance	Unlimited		222.60
Directline	20% of prop val		150.00
Municipal Mutual	20% of prop val		80.00
	50% of prop val		212.00
	20% of prop val		131.00

*All premiums quoted include accidental damage cover, though in many cases policies are available without this cover at a lower premium. †Contents cover not listed to 50%, see text. ‡Level of cover selected by policyholder.

BRIEFINGS

WOOLWICH Life has introduced a guaranteed income account paying a guaranteed monthly income over three years. The minimum investment is £2,000 and the account pays 9.5 per cent. Sums over £10,000 earn 9.65 per cent.

□ All new Bradford & Bingley borrowers are being offered a one-year discount on mortgages from Monday. Loans up to £40,000 will be 0.25 per cent lower. Up to £60,000 they will have a 0.5 per cent discount and above £60,000 they will be 0.8 per cent cheaper.

□ Diners Club will donate £25 to three charities on behalf of card holders spending £250 or more on their cards before December 25, or £10 for £150. The three charities are the Parkinson's Disease Society, the Riding for the Disabled Association and the Royal

Society for Nature Conservation. Cardholders can also nominate their own charity.

□ Owner-managers of companies often pay too much tax because they do not coordinate their business and personal affairs, Neville Russell, the chartered accountant, has said. The firm has brought out a guide to tax planning costing £4.95.

□ Employers competing for scarce staff will improve the range of benefits available, but staff have different ideas about what perks they want, according to a survey for the Woolwich Building Society.

Land Registry opens records for inspection

By MARGARET DIBBEN

ANYONE who has ever wondered who owns the empty house next door or the vacant plot of land at the bottom of the garden will soon have a better chance of finding out.

From December 3, the Land Registry will be open to the public for the first time. Then, everyone will have the right to check on the ownership of houses or land. Ramblers, whose path over a public right of way is barred, and property developers looking for empty land on which to build, can discover who to approach.

Owners cannot refuse to have their property included on the register, although very shy landowners can use nominee names to hide their identity.

The open register will not answer every enquiry because not all land is registered, even though the Land Registry started operating late last century. Land and houses are entered on the register on the first occasion they change ownership after registration starts in that area. If a property never changes hands it never comes on to the register.

There has been a rolling programme of compulsory registration and the final six areas will be added next Saturday. Properties in parts of Essex, Suffolk, and Hereford and Worcester will only start coming on to the register when they are sold after that date.

At present, the register contains about 13 million properties with an estimated 9 million still unregistered, although the situation is not as clear cut as it sounds.

John O'Sullivan, registry spokesman, said: "One field would be registered as one entry. But if someone decided to build 800 houses on it, then what was one entry becomes 800 entries."

There will be a charge of £6, which is not refundable, to find out whether a property is registered. For £12 the name of the owner will be given and the second £6 is refundable if the land proves to be unregistered. For a further £6 a plan of the property can be provided. There is no fee for

homeowners to inspect their own property details, which will be sent to the address registered.

Copies of the register may or may not show the previous owners. At present the entries are being put on to computer. About 1 million have been included so far and these will only show the present owner.

Paper-based entries are more likely to show previous owners, but not necessarily. Information about previous owners cannot be requested from the Land Registry.

The Land Registry's income fell sharply last year because of the slump in house sales. In 1988/89, the surplus returned to the Treasury was £34 million, but last year this fell to £10 million. Opening the register will bring in new income, but if this is insufficient for the Registry to pay its way charges will have to rise.

Mr O'Sullivan said: "We are only just opening the register now and who knows what will happen. People may want to use it a lot, in which case our income will shoot up."

Until the register opens to the public, nearly three-quarters of the registry's work has been concerned with conveyancing, which in the year to last March involved 1.7 million property sales. Buyers were allowed to inspect the register in these circumstances because the homeowners gave their consent.

This pre-purchase work involves checking the register so that a prospective buyer knows that the house legally belongs to the person selling it, whether there is mortgage outstanding on the property and who it is with (but not the amount) and whether any matrimonial disputes have been noted on the register.

The cost of registering a property for the first time or buying a registered property is between £25 for a house worth up to £20,000 and £900 for an estate costing more than £5 million. A house between £100,000 and £150,000 costs £180 to register.

EDITED BY LINDSAY COOK, MONEY EDITOR

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LETTERS

Policy endorsements added after renewal paid

From Mrs A. R. Brown
Sir, We have a house contents insurance policy with a well-known insurance company and almost every year, after having paid the premium for renewal of the existing policy, we have only subsequently received details of "endorsements" or "important policy changes".

These changes have been neither requested nor notified, still less agreed, before policy renewal, and cannot be justified as no insurance claims have ever been made on the policy. One recent endorsement removed, among other things, all cover for theft if the property was unoccupied for more than 24 hours!

We are at present contesting a policy amendment which removes all cover on a holiday home when unoccupied for 30 days or more, thus invalidating the whole purpose of the policy. Surely it should be illegal for companies to change policy details without the policyholder's prior knowledge or consent? Do other readers have similar problems?

Yours faithfully,
A. R. BROWN,
Argus,
32600 L'Isle-Jourdain,
France.

Unfair to Bupa's captive members

From Mr Richard C. Petersen
Sir, Like Mr O'Leary (Weekend Money, November 17), I too have been unable to obtain any tax relief from Bupa. However, I have a letter from the Treasury confirming that "... the balance of the premium he pays from his own resources should be eligible for relief. Bupa should be able to give him more details about this." The letter is dated June 27.

Despite reminders, Bupa have been unable to give me any details. Their treatment of LP subscribers differs markedly from their treatment of others. Perhaps the Director of Fair Trading should take an interest in their lack of activity, which seems to be unfair to the "captive" LP subscribers who must continue to be members willy-nilly.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD C. PETERSEN,
15 West End Terrace,
Winchester, Hampshire.

Account closed over charges

From Mrs E. Lewis
Sir, Close the account! That's what I advise David Channing to do (Overdraft charges, Weekend Money, November 17). I recently closed my current account with a branch of the same "listening" bank when they not only charged me for being slightly over-

drawn but timed the charges so that I would start off the next quarter overdrawn, and would presumably be charged by them for this (charges on charges)?

I have a high interest cheque account with the same branch so a phone call or letter from them (for which I would have paid) could have averted these charges, as I would have transferred funds from the HICA. I object to paying £17.05 Activity Charge plus £15 for "additional services". What additional services?

Incidentally I have found to my cost that the balance of account details obtainable at cash dispenser machine outlets aren't always up to date, hence my becoming overdrawn.

More power to your column.
Yours sincerely,
E. LEWIS,
42 Blenheim Grove,
London, SE15.

More junk mail or should I call it 'additional services'?



The overdraft is to pay off the overdraft arrangement fee



'Excessive security' at First Direct

From J. M. Jennings
Sir, First Direct seem to be a curious lot, as Michael Owen found out.

I was not asked for previous bank statements, but they seem to be excessively security conscious, needing a password, my mother's maiden name and a memorable (to me) date.

Presumably this was to check if I really am the person on the phone. On the other hand if I go to the "hole in the wall" for my balance, the figure in brilliant green light is displayed for anyone to see - unlike the National Westminster Bank, who issue a discreet printed slip, reverse view to the public, which also forms a useful record.

But First Direct's 9 per cent on the current account is very attractive.
Yours faithfully,
J. M. JENNINGS
3 Gledlands
Pulborough, Sussex

Bank customer counts cost of increasing overdraft limit

From Mr N. Hamilton-Hamill
Sir, With reference to the letter from David Channing, Overdraft Charges, on November 17. Count yourself lucky Mr Channing. I recently exceeded my arranged overdraft facility and received a letter saying they were going to charge me 31.7 per cent interest because that was the law, and they did.

Then I went to see them to arrange an increase in my overdraft facility. They wanted to charge an "arrangement fee" for this of £300! I negotiated that down to £150!

I know a little about computers but not a lot. Can it really cost that sort of money to reset an overdraft report figure?

Perhaps we (us bank "customers") should all contribute to your fees to go in and show them how to do it for a fever - which I suspect is what it really costs.

Yours faithfully,
N. HAMILTON-HAMILL,
6 Avenue Road,
Staines,
Middlesex.

From Mr R. F. Messik
Sir, I was interested to read your article regarding premium bond prizes in The Times.

I have held a small amount of bonds for some twenty years and have never won a penny during that period of time.

I thought you would be interested in a letter that I received from the Bonds and Stock Office when I wrote to query whether my bonds had been registered. The inference

from the letter is that whilst all bonds are meant to have an equal chance of winning "the earlier premium bond numbers appear less often in the list of winners".

It would indicate that there is more chance of winning with recent issued bonds than those which had been issued some time ago.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD F. MESSIK,
Littlefield, 1 Farm Way,
Northwood,
Middlesex.

Rate rise 'would improve prizes'

From Mr Allan Makinson
Sir, The correspondents questioning the fairness of Ernie's distribution of prizes have all missed the important point that if the Government paid out a fair rate of interest on the prize fund instead of the measly 6.5 per cent on which winnings are based, all bond holders would stand to gain at least a 50 per cent improvement on

their chances of a win! Yours faithfully,
ALLAN MAKINSON,
8 Wheatcroft Avenue,
Fence, Burnley,
Lancashire.

Letters are welcomed, but The Times regrets it cannot give individual replies or advice. No legal responsibility can be accepted for advice or statements in these columns.

Final account shows why financial community welcomes Peps

From R. A. Nicholls
Sir, I invested £2,400 in BP shares in a NatWest personal equity plan in November 1987.

This week I withdrew the investment, and the final account over almost exactly three years is: my profit,

£475.39; NatWest fees, £131.54; brokers' fees, £99.93; stamp duty and VAT, £34.34.

It would have been difficult to have earned less than £700 tax-free from a building society for the same investment for the same time, and an investment that gives £34 to

the government can hardly be called tax-free. However, it is quite clear why the financial services community welcomes these plans.

Yours faithfully,
R. A. NICHOLLS,
45 Hound Street,
Sherborne, Dorset.

Right to complain about health premium relief

From Mr David Money-Coutts
Sir, Mr O'Leary quite rightly complains that Bupa is unable to deduct tax from the balance of his premium after deduction of his Lifelong Protection benefit, despite his being over 65.

Presumably, however, he can himself claim that tax

relief direct from the Inland Revenue.

I am under 65 and pay a Lifelong Protection premium which is exclusively for the provision of health care after I become 65. In the spirit of the 1989 Finance Act that premium should attract tax relief but it does not. Would the

Treasury care to make an appropriate amendment in the 1991 Finance Act, or sooner?

Yours faithfully,
DAVID MONEY-COUTTS,
Maggie House,
Peppard Common,
Henley-on-Thames,
Oxfordshire.

Court victory for car owner

By LINDSAY COOK, MONEY EDITOR

TEN months after her car was written off by coping stones falling on it in the January storms, a reader has received compensation from Norwich Union.

Iris Baker, of Burnham-on-Sea, Somerset, parked her ten-year-old Datsun Sunny in the town's Adam Street on January 25. When she returned to collect it she found that masonry from a house had fallen on to the car and punctured the bonnet. The engine was damaged and the car was written off.

The householder provided details of his buildings insurance and Mrs Baker made a claim for the value of the car from Norwich Union, the insurer of the building. She was refused on the grounds that the householder had not been negligent, but decided to take the matter further.

Kevin Baker, her husband, said: "They told us it was an act of God, but we argued that if adequate steps had been taken to maintain the building the damage would not have happened."

"We got the feeling that because it was a big company with structural engineers and lawyers to call on they felt they

could stamp on us because we were not big enough to bite.

"We decided to take the case to the small claims court and filed for £500 plus costs. Norwich Union's solicitor denied liability and a date was set for an arbitration hearing. They did not turn up so a second hearing was set for Friday, November 23, at Weston-super-Mare County Court."

On Tuesday, Mr Baker heard that the insurance company had paid £500 plus the £37 costs.

"We did this without a solicitor and suggest that anyone else who has had difficulty pursuing a claim from an insurance company should use the small claims procedure," said Mr Baker.

A spokesman for Norwich Union confirmed the company had paid the full amount of the claim in to the court. He explained why it had not paid earlier: "If something blows off the roof of a house in exceptional weather conditions it is unfortunate but it does not mean the owner has been negligent."

"As time progressed we felt our case was not absolutely cast iron and we decided to pay into the small claims

court." But Norwich Union will now set about recovering its money from Co-operative Insurance. The contents of the property were insured by the latter and legal liability claims are normally covered by the contents and not the buildings policy.

Insurers cover a householder's legal liability, but the Norwich Union spokesman said that this was not "no fault" insurance.

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Fidelity Investments

Details of the pension tracing service to be set up next April by the government were published yesterday. They fall far short of the expectations raised by the social security department last autumn when it announced the scheme was to be set up.

The pensions registry is to be operated by the Occupational Pensions Board and will be able to provide employees with information dating back to 1975, when preserved pensions began. It will not help those nearing retirement to trace money held by the pension schemes of long-defunct companies.

Those nearing retirement who want help in finding pension money frozen since the Fifties or Sixties will receive no help from official sources. They will still have to rely on the voluntary help of the Occupational Pensions Advisory Service (Opas) and other organisations — or try a little pensions sleuthing themselves.

The vast majority of tracing cases referred to Opas involve pre-1975 entitlements. Deferred pensions earned long ago can

take months to locate as companies may have been taken over more than once. Those who have moved from one part of the country to another can easily lose contact with old employers and not hear of changes of name or ownership.

Pension entitlements are often held by insurance companies and not by the original company or firm that took it over. Insurance companies currently hold lots of small unclaimed pensions because of the difficulties facing employees trying to trace their funds. Many people who remember leaving pension money behind give up when they are told there are no pension records dating back to their period of employment.

It is a shame that the opportunity to help sort out the pre-1975 pensions tangle has not been tackled. Many companies did not have computerised records before preservation began, but they should know

Lost pensions will stay buried



COMMENT

LINDSAY COOK
WEEKEND MONEY EDITOR

which old schemes have been absorbed into their own. They could have been required to provide such information.

This will undoubtedly build up to a useful service for people who have only post-1975 pensionable service. Older people will have to find their own pensions.

Open land

At long last home owners may stand a chance against property developers and others who seem determined to run down their neighbourhoods: the Land Registry is to be open to the public from December 3.

This will eventually enable anyone to find out who owns what property. If a consortium starts buying up houses in the area, neighbours will be able to find out. They should also be able to discover who is responsible for run-down properties occupied by squatters or the owners of derelict and overgrown land.

Such enquiries may give the first hint of a planned development and allow residents more time to prepare for battle. In other cases, where properties have been allowed to fall into disrepair, owners can be located by prospective buyers. Tenants will be able to bypass agents and find out who their

landlord is when repairs are needed.

Initially there are only 13 million properties registered, but each time one of the remaining 9 million is sold it will be added to the register.

It has long been a nonsense that this publicly-held information has been denied to the public.

But how long we would have had to wait to have access to these records if the housing market had not collapsed, forcing the registry to look for replacement revenue, is a question that must be considered.

City damaged

Stock Group investors who have been waiting since June to have their cash restored to them should see some progress soon. The investors caught in the collapse of British and Commonwealth have had cash realised

from share sales frozen in the B&C merchant bank.

While the direct customers of the bank have been paid compensation of up to £15,000 each by the deposit protection board, clients of B&C intermediaries have had to wait for the brokers to supply information to the bank compensation scheme.

A series of letters have been sent to the brokers detailing exactly what is needed, but, until now, Stock Group has failed to come up with information on what was held for clients on a specific date.

Now one of the investors has been promised in a letter from Stock Group that all the information will be handed over by this weekend.

By next weekend clients should be told exactly what their assets are.

If this proves to be correct, it will be only a matter of weeks before compensation is paid.

Many of the investors are likely to think twice before trusting a broker again. The whole business has damaged the reputation of the City for straight dealing.

MEDICAL reports from doctors to back up applications for life insurance are being scrapped by one large life office and replaced with questionnaires to be filled in by the applicants.

Royal Life hopes its eight-page medical conditions questionnaire will avoid delays of two to three weeks, which it says are common among doctors filling in the three-page medical attendance report.

Royal says it is the first to have introduced self-policing medical questionnaires. Other life offices require a medical attendance report, depending on age and how much cover is required.

Asking applicants to fill in their own medical questionnaire will also save the £20 fee life companies have to pay doctors filling in forms. This cost is indirectly met by policyholders through their premiums. The questionnaire has eight sections covering anxiety or depression, arthritis, asthma, bronchitis, epilepsy, growths and tumours, high blood pressure, stomach and "female" complaints.

Most life offices require one of two kinds of medical reports. Limits vary from company to company, but anyone

Royal drops doctor's report and puts trust in applicants

wanting an endowment policy of more than £80,000 to cover a mortgage will probably find his or her doctor is asked by the life company to fill in a medical attendance report. This shows the applicant's past medical history.

For cover of more than £120,000, companies will normally require potential policyholders to undergo a medical examination. Spencer Leigh, chief underwriter at Royal Life, said: "We are circumventing the medical attendance report, which can take a fortnight or three weeks. Very few doctors send it back by return of post and if a person wants access to their report, as they are allowed to under the Access to Medical Reports Act, it can take longer."

No one under the age of 40 wanting less than £100,000 of cover would need to fill in a questionnaire and only those who have already declared a

medical problem on their original proposal form would be asked to give more details.

"If people give us more detail we will normally be able to accept their proposal immediately," said Mr Leigh.

Anyone wanting more than £200,000 of cover will still have to undergo a medical examination.

Scottish Life will accept proposals from people up to the age of 55 for amounts up to £75,000 if it is an endowment to cover mortgages. Above this, applicants have to have a medical attendance report. Applicants aged less than 30 for shorter term endowments will be subjected to a medical report if they want more than £175,000 of cover. Those over 50 year need a medical report for more than £60,000.

Ray Milne, assistant general manager of marketing at Scottish Life, questioned whether people might be tempted to

hide information on a form they filled in themselves.

"The danger of this approach is that it invites non-disclosure. People may not want to put things down because they're embarrassed. But non-disclosure is fraud and life companies are not legally obliged to pay out on claims."

Mr Leigh said: "The non-disclosure rate across all policies is about 15 per cent at the moment. But I am sticking my neck out and saying people will be willing to help."

Ray Morley, marketing services manager at Commercial Union, said: "There is no reason to think people are other than honest. But there is a danger that the company may have to make an assumption if people do not give enough medical information which could work against the policyholder."

Commercial Union requires medical attendance re-

ports on applicants wanting more than £80,000 of cover on a 25 year mortgage endowment. People needing more than £120,000 require a medical examination. Everyone over the age of 60 needs a report for shorter-term endowments, but younger people wanting more than £60,000 will also have to give medical information.

The Association of British Insurers (ABI) is holding talks with the health department to decide whether to ban life companies from asking applicants if they have had a positive Aids test. Several states in America already outlaw the practice and other countries are moving towards a voluntary ban.

At present, British insurers say they will continue to ask about Aids, on the grounds that the information helps them underwrite the risk accurately.

A spokesman for the ABI said: "Companies will need convincing about the truth of anecdotal evidence that people are being dissuaded from taking tests because they are frightened of not being able to get life insurance."

By SARA MCCONNELL

Investors' thoughts turn to electricity flotation

By LINDSAY COOK, MONEY EDITOR



Frankie: promoting issue

THIS weekend at least 7.4 million people will be considering whether to apply for shares in the 12 electricity companies. Mini-prospectuses should be sent out by next Wednesday to those who registered for the sale by mid-November. Applications must be in by the following Wednesday.

Prospectuses will be available in banks, post offices, brokers' offices and some building societies from next Wednesday. Application forms will also begin to be published in newspapers from that date.

The initial stake is £1 per share, with a minimum investment in any company of £100 at the outset. Then investors have almost two years to meet the rest of the £2.40 price per share. The second instalment of 70p is due in October next year and the final instalment in September 1992.

Those customers who registered with the share information office by November 14 will be able to choose either electricity bill discount vouchers, worth £18 for every 100 shares up to a maximum of £70, or a bonus of one free share for every ten held for three years, up to a maximum of 300 free shares.

Few applicants will be able to bank the expected profit before Christmas because, like the water companies, this privatisation is not being dealt for cash. Dealing is expected to begin on December 11 but only those who have made prior arrangements with brokers will be able to sell them because interim certificates are not expected to be despatched until December 19.

National Westminster will be alone in offering cash settlement, and then only through its 270 touchscreens in main branches. The minimum fee will be £20 and a cheque will be handed over

immediately. Those able to deal between December 11 and 14 through conventional stockbrokers will not be paid until January 11. The majority, who have to wait for their certificates before they can deal, will receive their cash on January 15, as long as they sell by December 28. Sales between December 31 and January 11 will be settled on January 22.

NatWest will also be offering a postal dealing service with a minimum commission of £9.

Existing customers of Sharelink, the telephone dealing service, and those who registered by early November, will be able to deal without certificates for a minimum fee of £5 if they apply for electricity shares through the company. For this fee the company will deal "at best".

Those electricity investors who want to deal within a preset limit will be charged a minimum of £7.50. Most electricity share sellers will not know the price they received until their contract note arrives. The Yorkshire Building Society is offering to sell shares for investors "at best" within an hour of instructions being received for a minimum fee of £10. Those

who choose to wait to find out what their proceeds will be are being offered a free financial assessment. Cheques will be sent out the following day with the contract note but they will be post-dated to the settlement date.

If customers pay the cheque into a Yorkshire account on settlement day the society will give immediate clearance of up to £500 in cash instead of making customers wait the usual ten days for clearance.

The Norwich & Peterborough Building Society is offering dealing from the first day for investors and will allow sellers to specify a minimum price. The society will charge a minimum of £8. Diameter, the Guildford stockbroker, will deal without certificates. The minimum fee is £5 with family deals costing £10. Clients can choose between dealing "at best" or by specifying minimum price.

The Leeds and Skipton building societies are offering free dealing in electricity shares through Capel Cure Myers Capital Management. Customers have to apply for shares through the societies to qualify for free dealing.

The yield on the shares ranges from 8.03 per cent for Eastern and Southern to 9.03 per cent for Northern. The first dividend will be paid in full before the second instalment is due. The high yield and the expected premium on the shares will encourage long-term holders to put the shares in tax-free personal equity plans (Peps). Midlands, South Western, and Yorkshire are offering corporate plans with no initial charge. Most large plan managers are not offering electricity Peps but many brokers are.

The Stock Exchange has produced a leaflet listing the 77 firms willing to deal in electricity shares. This can be obtained free by telephoning 081 802 3124.

Public shrinks from shares

By SARA MCCONNELL

DESPITE the privatisation programme of the last decade, small investors have not taken to wider share ownership promoted by the Thatcher governments because buying and selling shares is still too complicated.

Only 14 per cent of shareholders hold shares that they bought through the stockmarket, while the rest of Britain's 11 million shareholders bought shares through privatisations or off the page, according to the latest International Stock Exchange/Treasury survey.

David Jones, chief executive of Sharelink, said this was because banks and stockbrokers were not interested in catering for the small investor holding one or two privatisation stocks. "Operations like Sharelink are the product of the failings of Big Bang. Derogulation should have meant wider share ownership, but banks and stockbrokers

are not that interested because their businesses are geared to large deals, or well heeled private clients."

The Confederation of British Industry estimated in *A Nation of Shareholders*, a report published last month, that the proportion of British shares held by private investors fell to 20 per cent last year, down from 30 per cent in 1980. Institutional investors held 60 per cent, and the remainder was held by the government and other British and overseas investors.

Six-and-a-half million private shareholders had holdings in only one company and only 0.3 million held shares in 11 or more companies. Holdings are overwhelmingly in privatisation issues.

The BT flotation attracted 1.2 million registrations and 2.3 million applications. Enthusiasm for privatisations grew with the TSB flotation, for which 3.1 million people

registered and 5 million applied. But in the 1986 gas flotation, there were 7.5 million registrations and 4.5 million applications. Dealings in BP started just after the crash of 1987, which explains why there were 2,500,000 applications. One-and-a-half million people registered for British Steel and 650,000 applied.

People see privatisations mainly as a way to make a quick profit, according to research from the Stock Exchange and the Association of Investment Trust Companies. The crash of 1987 was seen as a warning that investing on the stockmarket was risky, but privatisations were considered low risk. The CBI estimated exposure to stockmarkets through pension funds had increased five-fold during the past two years. Four million people have invested in the personal pensions introduced in July 1988.

Gilts likely to shine

GILTS are likely to become a more attractive buy because interest rates will probably fall again before Christmas after Mrs Thatcher's resignation. When interest rates fall the price of gilts rises as more people enter the market to lock into fixed returns.

Jamie Berry, managing director of Berry Asset Management, the independent adviser, predicted that new gilt issues would also be launched. "There are signs that the gilt market is beginning to pick up and there may be some attractive issues coming

ing up, although these are likely to be longer gilts and, therefore, slightly riskier. The gilt market will be a good way of raising new money."

Mike Shaw, project manager at Framlington, said: "I think it is likely that interest rates will fall and if the outlook for equities remains uncertain, the prospects for gilts are good. But if starting weakness, interest rates may have to go up again."

Since 1988, investors have received the best yield from short dated gilts, which reflect interest rates most strongly.

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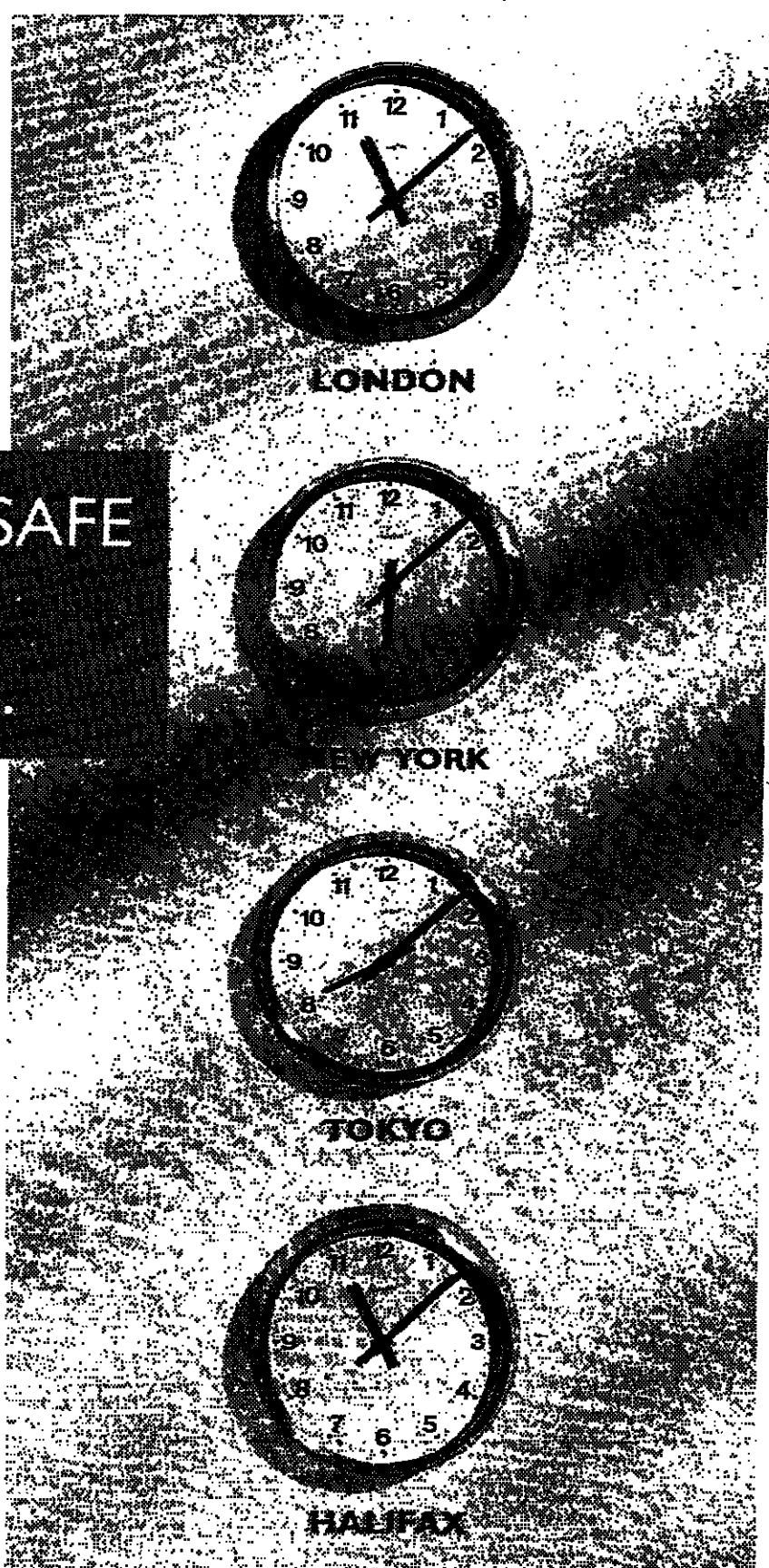
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هكزامن الاصل

Devotion to duty keeps the boy scout to the fore

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH

BUSINESS PROFILE

Michael Julien

Michael Julien has aged visibly since taking on the role of chief executive at Storehouse. The boyish look for which he was renowned has faded in the past two and a half years, but even at the age of 52, the boy scout in him is very much to the fore. Julien combines a Biggles-like enthusiasm with a readiness to do his duty. There is something oddly innocent about him.

A product of the establishment, he is the sort of chap who would have made a good head boy. He is a deeply conventional man with a respect for authority, a passion for neatness and a huge sense of his responsibilities. He has a Japanese-style devotion to his job and readily admits to putting the company before his family.

He has been described as a man for the current economic environment, a financial engineer, one of the men in the grey suits. He is known as being a serious man and he has no obvious sense of humour. His ability for sorting out balance sheets is not in doubt but when it comes to doing anything creative or artistic he is an unknown quantity. One former fellow director, who refused to be publicly identified, described him as visually illiterate.

There is no guile or deviousness in Michael Julien. Those who know him well describe him as a man of integrity, a perfectionist who thrives under pressure and hates to be kept waiting. He is nagged by little things, such as ringing telephones and misplaced letters.

All who know him agree on two things. He is phenomenally hard working and he talks endlessly, usually on the telephone. He has a strong sense of morality, with a tendency to see issues in black and white, and talks frequently of "doing the right thing".

Ellen, his Norwegian wife, says: "If we have been abroad and I have bought £25 of gifts and the duty free allowance is £18, I have to go through the red channel at customs and declare the extra."

Julien says of himself: "I do not want a single day to go by without learning something. I could not look myself in the mirror if I did a job to only 90 per cent of my ability. I expect the same from other people."

The job currently tests his abilities in sorting out Storehouse, the retail empire that includes British Home Stores, Mothercare, Habitat, Richards and Blazer.

And he is approaching the task with the singlemindedness of a captain leading his troops over the top. Julien has not shrunk from performing drastic corrective surgery on the business that was built by his predecessor, Sir Terence Conran. Heal's, the furniture retailer, has been sold to its management. Habitat has been cut back with the closure of 12 stores. Nearly 1,000 jobs have gone at B&S Jacadi, the childrenswear business, as have a host of directors and managers.

And that is just this year. Since Julien arrived in June 1988, the entire board of Storehouse has changed. The culmination of his policy was the resignation of Sir Terence as chairman in May this year. Julien's colleagues describe the recent changes as the "de-construction of Storehouse". Those who worked closely with Sir Terence have gone.

Sir Terence says: "Storehouse was a place where everyone called everyone else by their first name. One of Michael's first acts on arriving at Storehouse was to send a memo round telling staff that he wanted to be addressed as Mr Julien. He has totally changed the whole concept of the business."

But to many City observers Michael Julien has saved the company from financial disaster. His first act as chief executive was to bring borrowings down ahead of the rise in interest rates. Without these shrewd moves early on, Storehouse would be in a considerably weaker position than it is today.

But he still has some way to go before he can claim success. Recent half-year figures from Storehouse show profits down from £8.7 million to £3.8 million.

The price that he has had to pay for City approval has been the disintegration of his relationship with Conran. But while he is saddened that they are no longer friends, Julien is clear about the issues. It was Conran's duty to go.

Julien says of that period: "Terence is like any other entrepreneur who has built his own business. It was very difficult for him to let go. He had been told very firmly by the institutions that he had to

appoint a chief executive, and the deal from the beginning was that I would be in charge. Everyone at Storehouse would report to me and I would report to him."

"The difficulty was for him, not me. I had to be cruel to be kind. But at the end of the day I had to be stubbornly determined to get the disciplines into the company."

"I had to act in the best interests of all the shareholders. I remember having Christmas lunch with Terence last year and saying 'I understand how you feel but I just can't do anything about it. This is hurting you, it is really necessary to carry on this degree of pain'. I did regret the situation but I had to do what was right for the company."

He has not seen Sir Terence since he retired.

Sir Terence, who in his style is the antithesis of Julien, finds the "de-construction" of Storehouse deeply wounding.

"To strengthen the balance sheet Michael is selling off the family silver. Some of us believe in a more cheerful tomorrow but those little businesses, the seed corn of Storehouse, have been sold. If Michael cannot manage a business, he sells it," he says.

Many believe he will eventually sell Habitat.

But Julien's concern for his staff and his openness endear him to past and current employees.

Chris Bull, finance director of BTR, says: "He is a good team player, very quick and with an excellent memory. People who work for him respect and admire him. He is singleminded and physically very robust."

Yet it has not all been happy shoulders to the wheel since Julien took over at Storehouse. Bob Mackenzie, the finance director appointed by Julien last year, left last month after a boardroom row. Julien is maintaining a diplomatic silence on the issue and lawyers for both sides have advised their clients to say

'I do not want a single day to go by without learning something. I could not look myself in the mirror if I did a job to only 90 per cent of my ability. I expect the same from other people'

nothing. Mr Mackenzie is known to have very firm opinions, particularly over the Habitat issue. At the end of the day, he was not prepared to fall into line and march with the rest of the boy scouts.

Under the Julien regime that meant he had to go. Julien's physical strength is important. For the past seven years he has put himself under immense pressure, moving from one troubled company to another. Like a *Boy's Own* hero, he has been dashing about putting balance sheets in order and sorting out accounts.

His rapid career progression has laid him open to criticism that he quits before a job is fully done. He says he is hurt by the accusations and that in each instance he had done as much as he could before leaving.

Last year, when under pressure from the City and a threatened bid from Asher Edelman, the American arbitrageur, Julien lined up an impressive list of the great and the good who were prepared to endorse his record and leadership qualities.

Julien was born on March 22, 1938, the second son in a family of three. His father, who was French, worked for Barclays Bank, becoming branch manager at the age of 45. Julien's earliest memory is of being sent to boarding school at the age of five during the war. Most of his childhood was spent at school, firstly in Shrewsbury, Shropshire, and then at St Edward's School, Oxford, on a scholarship from Barclays Bank. He had no family life to speak of.

He would have loved to have gone to university, his older brother was studying medicine, but his father decided that he was not prepared to give both sons a further education.

"My father had the bright idea that I should become a

chartered accountant. As a bank manager he knew that accountants earned more than anyone else. He knew the big eight accountancy firms and wrote to four. I got an interview with Price Waterhouse."

"I remember being very embarrassed at the interview because my father insisted on coming with me," says Julien.

Despite his lack of a maths A-level, Price Waterhouse detected the budding accountant in him, but packed him off to do his National Service before taking him on. Julien enjoyed his time in Royal Signals and thought about making a career of it. He says that to keep himself sane while doing his accountancy articles he joined the Territorial Army.

It was while he was training to be an accountant that he met his wife Ellen, an air hostess, on a trip to Oslo. Ellen remembers that he bought a Norwegian telephone almost immediately and was able to offer to do the dishes when he first met her parents.

They married when Julien was 25 and lived in Norway for one year. But he grew restless in Norway and also in accountancy. He wanted to launch into business.

He made the break at the age of 29, becoming chief financial officer of C.E. Heath, the insurance broker, and before long he was on the board.

Julien is a remarkably open man and made no secret of his ambition to become chief executive of a large public company. It took him 20 years working for seven different companies before achieving that ambition.

He was treasurer at British Leyland for just more than a year before moving to Willis Faber, which he helped to float. Within three years he had moved to become finance director at BICC, later becoming disillusioned and moving to the board of Midland Bank. It was there that he made his reputation, playing a key role in the Crocker affair, the most serious banking predicament Britain has seen.

"We were living on the edge of our nerves," says Julien. "It was an amazing period. The hours we were working were just silly."

"I did not have Christmas with my family for three years running. I stopped for two hours on Christmas Eve to have dinner with them. The kids were sad, but what could you do?"

"But it was not just the Christmases, it was hour after hour, night after night. My middle daughter has never quite forgiven me for missing her confirmation. There is no way you can ever replace that, although it is nothing compared to what people put up with during the war."

They did not fail and Crocker was finally sold, but Julien was hooked on the adrenaline. "It was an enormous anti-climax going back to being the day to day finance director of a clearing bank," he says.

Despite being physically exhausted, he accepted the job of deputy chief executive of Eurotunnel. He stayed just six months.

Nevertheless, he believes now that it was a mistake to go straight from the Midland trouble into the hectic business of the Eurotunnel float. But he admits that swapping the role of finance director for that of deputy chief executive was too strong a lure to resist.

He does not regret his time at Eurotunnel, which was when he developed his love of the French. He bought a farm house on the west coast of France. "I never regret doing anything when I learn something," he says. The appointment of Alastair Morton as chief executive of Eurotunnel persuaded him to leave.

"Alastair's background was too similar to mine," he says. "I did feel let down. I thought it was right to go. Alastair was a damn good choice, so to that extent I did not take it personally. He is doing a good job."

By that time the Guinness affair had blown up and the drinks group was in the market for an efficient finance director. Julien was successfully head-hunted for the umpteenth time.

Sir Ian McLaurin, a Guinness non-executive director, says of him: "He is very able and has a marvellous brain. He is quite autocratic, knows what he wants and speaks his mind. He is a very proper man and a good team player."

Julien is still on the board of Guinness, but within 18 months he had received the call from Sir Terence offering him the ultimate prize — the chief executive's role. How could he refuse?

If Julien has regrets they are to do with the lack of time he has spent with his three children: Heidi, aged 25, Christine,



Personal sacrifice: Michael Julien, chief executive of Storehouse, who puts company before family, at home with his Norwegian wife Ellen

aged 22, and Mark, aged 16. While he has worked mostly from his London flat, Ellen and the children have lived in the family house in Weybridge, Surrey.

"I do not spend time on the things other people value," he says. "I do not go to concerts or the theatre much. I haven't time for the garden

and cannot be part of anything where people rely on me to turn up regularly. I have sacrificed a lot in family terms over the last ten years."

"If you ask my wife she would tell you I put the people in my company before the family."

Julien is not tremendously wealthy in City terms but he

has invested in property and owns three homes. He drives a company BMW.

"I am a great one for saving money. I have always been a saver. I do not collect art or buy jewellery because I can not be bothered with the hassle of insuring them."

Nearly all his friends are past business associates and

he has a wide circle of friends rather than one or two intimates.

He was touched that all 17 of the former colleagues he invited to his 51st birthday party last year turned up for the occasion.

Sir Terence says: "He does want the approval of the establishment. He would love

a knighthood. He is ambitious and wants fame and fortune but in an arid sense. The company is his life."

Julien says: "I do not feel a lonely person. I enjoy my life. All of my private life and social life revolve around the job, but I get pleasure out of things other people would not enjoy."

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SUMMARY

Trust offers tax break on rights

INVESTORS in the Trio Investment Trust, a new index tracking trust from Raphael Zorn Hemsley, the stockbroker, will be able to take dividends and profits tax-free should the firm make a rights issue next year, so long as they put their shares into a personal equity plan (PEP). The company has launched the trust by issuing £4 million of shares and is authorised to increase this ten fold to exploit a PEP loophole. The Inland Revenue confirmed that investors could go over the yearly £6,000 PEP investment limit as long as the rights issue was genuine.

Boy wonder



Storehouse may have aged Michael Julien but he still retains the Biggles-like vigour and devotion to duty that keep him thriving under pressure. Hard work and hard talk, here to Gillian Bowditch, are the hallmarks of the perfectionist chief executive. Page 43

Power deals

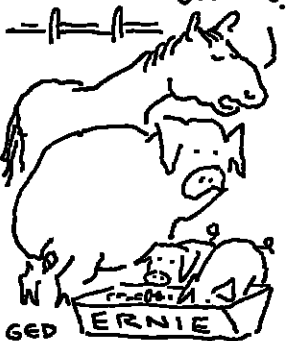
The electricity sell-off is going ahead even without Mrs Thatcher. Building societies, banks and stockbrokers continue to tempt the public with cheap dealing rates for shares in the 12 regional electricity companies. Page 42

Share out

Britain has not become a nation of shareholders. Dealing is still too complex and expensive for many small investors, despite interest in privatisation issues. Private investors hold fewer British shares now than at any time over the past 20 years. Page 42

Your views

Seems young animals are more equal than others.



The debate about the chances of winning on the premium bonds continues in readers' letters. Page 41

Loan ties

Home owners may be paying far more than they need to if they take buildings and contents insurance linked to a mortgage from a building society. Page 40

Open land

The Land Registry is finally opening its doors to the public from December 3. People will be able to inspect details of all property on its records, with a better chance of discovering who owns what. Page 40

THE SUNDAY TIMES

Thatcher's shock cure

"When she was elected, British industry seemed in terminal decline... Not only was Britain the sick man of European industry, it was getting sicker. Thatcher administered shock treatment." Business - in The Sunday Times tomorrow.

ABCD 123456

Ditching domestic junk can prove surprisingly profitable

Car boot sales bring out eager bargain hunters in droves

By ANNE CABORN

Every few years most homes suffer a bout of indigestion. Cupboards groan under the weight of domestic detritus: clothes that no longer fit, coffee makers without their glass jugs, and brass thimbles from the bathroom refit that have never quite proved as useful as they looked.

One way of dealing with them is a car boot sale, which not only jetsisons unwanted items but makes money too. In size, they range from a few cars parked on school playing fields to large commercial events attracting thousands of customers.

One of the biggest on the south coast is held on the British Rail station car park at Brighton every Sunday. The sale attracts up to 300 vehicles and stalls.

"I have been here when the snow has been four inches thick on the ground and you still get 40 cars," said Fred Johns, who manages the sale for Bray Associates, the organiser.

Brighton is popular with amateur and professional traders, so sellers have to turn up early to be sure of a place. I arrived at Brighton station at 5.30 am to find I was nowhere near the first in the queue. A number of cars were turned away.

At Brighton, cars queue according to size. Mr Johns directs the ranks of vehicles with the precision of a major-general. "Some people say I am not particularly nice to know first thing on Sunday morning."

A number of organisations and individuals use sales as a way of raising money for charity. "On any one Sunday, we might have

five or six charities here," Mr Johns added.

Trading activities for charities are exempt from tax, unless carried out on a regular basis or as a business. Personal goods and chattels sold for profit are also exempt, but the chances are that at a car boot sale the items are being sold at a loss. The Inland Revenue would start to take an interest if anyone started to buy goods to

'Brighton is popular with amateurs and professional traders, so sellers have to turn up early to be sure of a place. I arrived at Brighton station at 5.30 am to find I was nowhere near the first in the queue'

sell, or were selling other people's goods for commission.

Attic clearers should take time to choose a sale. The larger, more popular ones can have higher entrance fees, but a large crowd looking for a wider range of goods is almost guaranteed.

At Brighton a car costs £7 and rises according to vehicle type and size. Smaller sales may cost only £2 and £3 and can sometimes command better prices for certain items. Good children's and baby clothes can sell well at events organised by a school.

Dealers tend to be among the first to arrive, intent on snapping

up the best bargains before regular customers turn up.

Good quality furniture, *objets d'art* and memorabilia should be appraised and sold through reputable dealers or auction houses. Never part with something at a car boot sale unless certain it is of little real value. Better quality clothes should be sold through dress agencies and good quality hardback books through second hand book sellers. Older books, first and short run editions should be expertly priced. I had already taken the better hardback books to our local bookseller the week before attending a sale and raised £10, but that still left six boxes of car boot items and a director's chair that had been the victim of a pot of white paint. The chair sold for £3.50. Altogether, I made £73.

The secret is not to mark prices on items, that way people have to strike up a conversation and it gives the opportunity to haggle. It is often difficult to put a price on items, but customers will have a clear idea of what they are prepared to pay. Their price might be higher than one would have asked.

The aim should be to sell a lot at modest prices. The objective is to get rid of unwanted items and the last thing anyone wants is to cart them all home again. At a car boot sale people want a bargain. There is nothing that cannot be sold. I parted with an old air vent for 20p, two Air Mauritius complementary business class travel packs for £1.70, and a picture of Christopher Reeve dressed as Superman for 50p. Second hand clothes that fell short of dress agency standard and paperback novels were also popular.



Household rubbish: seemingly useless clutter can still be of value to car boot sale enthusiasts

There is no national organisation for car boot sale organisers, although a few belong to the Association of Private Market Operators, formed this year to promote and improve the image of markets.

"The best source of information is usually your local paper," said Brian Numan, secretary of the new association and managing director of Bray Associates. "A lot of them are organised by schools and charities."

He has noticed a marked increase in car boot "weekenders", people who sell personal possessions on a regular basis to boost income. "They are regulars, rather than professionals."

Adrian Linssen, aged 22, and Paul Deller, aged 19, a student, are now Brighton regulars. "We came here once to sell stuff from my mother's attic," said Paul. Both men are electronics buffs and now sell reconditioned hi-fi equipment.

"We've been doing it for six weeks now," said Adrian, who works for an electrical firm during

the week. Broken items are a frequent feature of car boot sales. They are a haven for Mr Fixits and DIY enthusiasts, but the condition of the item should be made

'Attic clearers should take time to choose a car boot sale. The larger, more popular ones can have higher entrance fees, but a large crowd looking for a wider range of goods is almost guaranteed'

clear. Care should also be taken not to sell goods that are faulty or possibly dangerous.

There has been some concern that car boot sales have become a convenient outlet for stolen goods. The matter was raised in the House of Lords in October. But the government has no plans to

initiate specific investigations and no legislation is planned.

Anything that turns out to be stolen has to be returned to its rightful owner. It is possible to take civil action against the person who sold them, but this is rarely worth the time, effort and money.

"That's the general rule," said a trade department spokeswoman, "but much depends on individual circumstances".

Items to be particularly wary of include microwave ovens and portable televisions.

Buying from a professional trader at a car boot sale gives the customer the same rights as they would have elsewhere, which includes items being of merchantable quality and fit for its purpose, even if second hand.

Buying from a private individual gives customers fewer rights. The Sale of Goods Act simply says goods should match their description. So the more asked about the value and condition of the item the better. With anything of worth, ask for the seller's name and address.

'Old ladies in pinnies' run £9m market stall business



'A useful source of income': Betty Francis, the controller of Britain's busiest WI market stall

EACH week, 58,000 people continue a tradition started in 1919 by a group of ex-servicemen who set up a market stall in Lewes town hall in East Sussex to sell fruit and vegetables (Tony Wilkinson writes).

The pioneers, First World War veterans, were allotment holders with too much produce for their own use. And the county Women's Institute came up with the idea of forming a co-operative to sell the surplus produce to the public.

Today, WI Market Co-operative Society is a business with an annual turnover of about £9 million. There are 587 WI market stalls in England, Wales and the Channel Islands. They sell cakes, jam, flowers, vegetables, eggs, craftwork - anything that their members can produce from their homes.

Penny Annand, the national adviser of WI markets, said: "It costs 5p to become a shareholder and £1.40 for the handbook. Every county has a WI Market Co-operative Society. They are run by volunteers, but the standards are very high. We have to meet the same statutory rules and regulations as any professional retailer."

The market stalls are the commercial side of the Women's Institute, segregated so as not to jeopardise the charitable status of the parent body. Shareholders do not need to be members of the Women's Institute, and men are welcome.

"We expect every shareholder

to help run his or her local stall," said Miss Annand. "Stalls are open two to three hours once a week in most places. Produce is handed over weekly and at the end of every month the money is returned to the shareholders, less an agreed percentage commission to WI markets. This is usually between 10 and 15 per cent."

The average income of shareholders is £104 a year, although many make much more than that. Christmas is a busy time, with table decorations, Christmas cakes, dried flowers and crafts providing extra income for many families. A gift delivery service has boosted earnings. Customers state the amount they want to spend and the type of goods preferred. The nearest WI market then delivers the gift to the customer's door.

The busiest WI market stall in Britain is at Chichester, West Sussex. The stall is open every market day from Tuesday to Saturday, selling jam, cakes, flowers fruit and vegetables.

Betty Francis, the WI markets controller in Chichester, spends two days a week baking 30 fruit cakes and between 40 and 50 quiches. She supplies dried flowers and supervises the stall.

"I would like to see more young people getting involved, because it is a useful source of income when you have children at school," she said.

About ten of Chichester's 40 shareholders are men, but few help at the stall, preferring to spend

time in their gardens growing fruit and vegetables, or helping with administration.

"I supply two WI markets with flowers and vegetables from my garden," said Geoff Williamson, a retired Ministry of Defence lecturer from Whittington, Staffordshire. "Two other local men use their surplus fruit to make jam. People think it is all women in WI markets, but that is wrong."

Mr Williamson supplies about £1,200 worth of produce a year to the two stalls. Commission is deducted to cover the cost of rent and expenses, such as stationery and bank charges.

"If there is a surplus at the end of the year, the money is redistributed to shareholders. This can bring the amount of commission down to about 6 per cent. It is very fair. We do not operate for profit. I do not cost for my time or for things like plant pots and compost. But we are professional in our standards."

Regulations about food hygiene have affected home cooking. Health inspectors have the right to visit domestic kitchens where food is cooked for public consumption. Lists of the names and addresses of all the WI markets suppliers are given to local authorities.

Mrs Francis said: "Our standards are just as high as supermarkets or other shops. People describe us as 'those old ladies in pinnies', but we are every bit as professional as the people who do it for a living."

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